

Carter: Mideast war may be deterred

STOCKHOLM (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Friday the increasing sophistication and destructiveness of weapons stockpiles in the Middle East could deter war in the region. "It may be that the very knowledge that there are chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the Middle East will cause these leaders to be more cautious in what they do," Carter told a news conference. He said Middle East leaders might be deterred from "starting a small-scale or conventional war that might escalate to bombing of a capital and the killing of tens of thousands of civilians." Carter, who as president arranged the 1979 Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, had been asked by reporters to assess arms escalation in the region. Events within the last two weeks have included warning by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of a massive retaliation with chemical weapons against any Israeli attack, failure of an alleged Iraqi attempt to buy nuclear weapons triggers, and Israeli launching of a satellite into orbit. "We've had massive armaments in the United States and the Soviet Union now for almost 50 years — the nuclear weapons — and in a way these nuclear weapons have been a deterrent to smaller wars," Carter said.

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Pakistani speaker begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Pakistani Upper House of Parliament Wasim Sajjad and an accompanying delegation arrived in Amman Friday in a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he will be received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Sajjad will also hold talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi on bilateral relations. Upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport Sajjad praised relations between Pakistan and Jordan and said that his visit to the Kingdom comes as a consolidation for these ties. He said that his talks with Lawzi would deal with various issues of common interest to both countries and the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes. Sajjad was received at the airport by Lawzi, a member of Upper House of Parliament members and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Bush reaffirms commitment to peace efforts

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President George Bush Thursday underscored the administration's commitment to Middle East peace efforts during a meeting at the White House with members of a bipartisan congressional delegation, led by senators Howard M. Baker and Robert Dole, that is going to the Middle East. Fitzwater said the president discussed U.S. policy objectives, "stressing the overall one of wanting to pursue the peace process." The group "basically outlined where they were going... who they were going to be meeting with... and indicated that they were hopeful also that they could be helpful in the peace process," the press secretary noted. Asked if the president had any message for the group to relay to any Middle Eastern leaders, including new Israeli officials, Fitzwater replied, "He gave them the general message that we want to pursue the peace process, and we're hopeful that any new government is able to move forward with us in that area."

Krenz slapped

KARLSRUHE, West Germany (R) — Former East German Communist leader Egon Krenz was twice slapped in the face by an angry East German immigrant when he appeared in public to promote a book he has written on the Communist fall from power, a newspaper said Friday. A crowd of about 100 people chanted "Not a penny for turncoat Krenz and 'Criminals out'" when Krenz stepped out of a car at a book store in Karlsruhe Thursday, the daily Badische Neueste Nachrichten said. Krenz, who took over for only six weeks as East German leader after his mentor, Socialist boss Erich Honecker, was ousted last October, was trying to promote his book "Wenn Mauer Fallt" (When Walls Fall). About 30 policemen shielded Krenz on his way in to the shop, but an East German immigrant came close enough to the former Communist hardliner to slap him in the face twice, the newspaper said. Police detained the attacker but released him after checking his identity. It was not known whether charges would be made.

Romanian trial delayed

BUCHAREST (AP) — The trial of deposed communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's brother was suspended Friday after he denied shooting seven people and giving orders to kill protesters during the December revolution. The panel of three military judges ordered the trial of Nicolae Andruta Ceausescu suspended until April 26 after both prosecution and defence asked for time to investigate new forensic evidence made available since court proceedings opened Monday. Andruta Ceausescu, 66, the former commander of the academy training the dreaded Securitate secret police, is charged with inciting genocide and aggravated, or multiple, murder. He faces a maximum life sentence if convicted.

Royal commission on national charter to be named very shortly

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A royal commission entrusted with drawing up the proposed national charter is expected to be announced very shortly and the panel will include personalities from the far left to the extreme right, according to informed political sources. Dozens of political figures, including parliamentarians, scholars, intellectuals, former officials and political activists were consulted by the Royal Court over the past few days with the purpose of including them in the commission, the sources said. Although the exact number of members in the panel is not known yet, it is expected that it will include between 40 and 50 personalities "representing all shades of the political spectrum" as promised by His Majesty King Hussein, said one of the sources. The proposed national charter

is expected to serve as a guideline to regulate political life in the Kingdom as a prelude to legalising political parties, which have been banned since 1956.

According to the sources, representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood, the three main Marxist-oriented groups in the country — the Jordan Communist Party (JCP), the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) and the Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) — and pan-Arab nationalists were among those already consulted by the Royal Court.

Representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood and the leftist parties confirmed to the Jordan Times that their respective groups had accepted to serve in the committee.

Legislative Deputy Youssef Al Atham said that five Islamists, including four Lower House members, were approached for appointment to the committee.

The four, according to Muslim Brotherhood officials, are: Deputy Atham, Abdullah Akayleh, Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Majed Khalifeh.

Member of the Lower House of Parliament Ishaq Al Farhan is believed to be the fifth.

Sources close to the PFLP said that Deputy Tarek Marji was approached for appointment to the committee representing the group while JPDP confirmed that its General Secretary Tayseer Zibri was a prospective member.

Communist Deputy Issa Mdanat, who is currently in Cyprus taking part in a meeting of the International Parliamentary Union, is expected to represent the JCP in the panel.

According to the information available to the Jordan Times, among those expected to represent the pan-Arab nationalist trend, including the two factions of the Baath party, are Amin Shukry, Muna Shukry, and Deputy Mohammad Fares Tarawneh. Samir Habashneh will represent non-Baathist pan-Arab trends, said a source.

Other sources said, however, that the names of all members of the committee were not finalised.

The inclusion of the leftists in the committee indicated a shift in the

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Accord paves way for 1991 debt rescheduling

Jordan gets IMF green light to secure \$369 million in loans

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared the way for Jordan to launch negotiations to reschedule its debt and interest payments due in 1991 and to secure loans totalling \$369 million during fiscal year 1990.

"We have agreed on the (financial and monetary) policies to be implemented in 1990, and are assured of support from the IMF and other (backing) which will enable us to secure the support of other parties," Finance Minister Basel Jaradeh told the Jordan Times Friday. He did not elaborate. A joint statement issued Thursday by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) following five days of talks between Ministry of Finance officials and an IMF delegation said the agreement covered \$44 million in IMF standby credit, a \$150 million loan from the World Bank,

another loan from the Japanese government for the same amount, and \$25 million from the West German government. (Earlier figures indicated that the West German loan was \$17 million. Ministry of Finance sources said Thursday that the extra \$8 million was "recycled" into the latest agreement with Bonn).

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the IMF gave its approval to Jordan to reschedule debt repayments, due in 1991, totalling \$650 million, and a major part of the interest due totalling \$450 million.

Although the two sides reached agreement, "the accord announced Thursday is still tentative and has to be approved by the Council of Ministers and the IMF's board of trustees," CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi told the Jordan Times Friday. "This is expected in the next week or so," he said.

According to Nabulsi, Jordan hopes to increase its foreign exchange reserves by at least \$100 million by the end of 1990 over the 1989 figure of \$300 million and he indicated the IMF standby credit could be used to boost reserves while the World Bank and Japanese loans were essentially meant to finance imports, i.e. help the Kingdom's balance of payment for the year 1990.

The \$44 million IMF standby credit is released in tranches of \$11 million each, subject to Jordan meeting the targets set in the economic restructuring programme. According to Thursday's statement, two of the tranches — supposed to have been paid on the first and second quarters of the year had the IMF review talks been completed earlier as originally scheduled — will be released before the end of June. The remaining \$22 million will be released after another round of review talks with the IMF.

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Bush, Shevardnadze finalise May summit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met for two hours Friday to prepare for a superpower summit the Soviet envoy said "will become a major event in world affairs."

Shevardnadze predicted a wide range of agreements at the summit between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the United States beginning May 30.

He also said a "mutually acceptable" solution was possible on the issue of German unification.

Shevardnadze delivered a letter to Bush from Gorbachev that dealt with arms control, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, declining to provide any details. He called the meeting "cordial and productive."

On other issues, Shevardnadze said the Soviets were willing to implement an agreement for direct flights of Jewish refugees to Israel provided Israel gave assurances they would not be settled in the occupied territories. On Thursday night, a Soviet official specified the occupied territories referred to East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Soviets have consistently demanded that Israel hold negotiations to create a Palestinian state and relinquish all the land the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war.

Shevardnadze's White House session with Bush ran twice as long as initially planned.

"This talk was not only rather lengthy but also rather substantive," Shevardnadze said.

Earlier Friday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said the Soviets had eased off their demand that the merged Germany be neutral but continued to object to its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"We were equally firm in our view that the unified Germany must remain a member of NATO and that that would indeed provide stability, which is, after all, one of the major results that we all seek from the unification of Germany," Baker said.

As an alternative, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has proposed keeping NATO troops from entering what is now East Germany even though the merged country would be part of the Western alliance.

E. German coalition talks make progress

EAST BERLIN (AP) — An East German leftist party and a conservative alliance have cleared away some ideological differences in efforts to build a broad coalition government, the ADN news agency said Friday.

Christian Democratic leader Lothar de Maiziere, whose party holds the most seats in parliament, was asked to try to form a government during Thursday's inaugural session of the new legislature.

The East German lawmakers chose Christian Democrat Sabine Bergmann-Pohl to serve as parliament president. She said she hoped the legislators do "justice to our responsibilities and that we soon sit in a common German parliament."

De Maiziere is trying to resolve differences over reunification and build a broad coalition from the 11 parties represented. His success would speed the merger of the German states, the principal issue in the country's first free elections March 18.

The Christian Democrats are part of a conservative alliance that also includes Democratic Awakening and the German Social Union. The alliance has tried to ally with the left-leaning Social Democrats, which won the second most seats in the election.

Gazan shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot to death by Israeli soldiers in a clash over the sealing of a mosque by the Israeli occupation authorities and an Israeli man was stabbed in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, reports said.

Jerusalem's 15,000 Christians said Friday they would curtail Palm Sunday celebrations for a third year because of the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"The traditional Palm Sunday procession... will not be celebrated in the normal way. It will be marked in the spirit of holy pilgrimage," the Latin patriarchate said in a statement.

Thousands of Christians from the occupied West Bank and Israel and pilgrims from abroad usually take part in a three-kilometre procession from the Mount of Olives to a church inside the walled Old City.

The Latin patriarchate will substitute a silent procession for the annual festive march commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem five days before his crucifixion.

A 35-year-old Jew was stabbed Friday in the Old City near the religious seminary where he studies, police said.

The Jew, who was armed and wore a religious skullcap, was in fair condition in hospital.

Police closed off the seven gates to the Old City and rounded up about 80 Palestinians in a search for the attacker.

Palestinians view the Jewish seminary in the Muslim quarter of the Holy City as a provocation. The last Israeli stabbed there was a woman soldier attacked in January.

The clash in the Gaza Strip came outside the great mosque in Khan Yunis, which was welded shut by soldiers Wednesday as a hotbed of uprising activity.

Arab reporters said Palestinian youths gathered outside the closed building to pray Friday and a stone-throwing confrontation with troops broke out.

The victim was identified as Ali Suleiman Urbiya, 17, of the Khan Yunis refugee camp. Officials at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis said he was hit with a single bullet in the chest.

Hospital officials said six other Palestinians were treated for wounds from rubber-coated steel balls, including four hit in the face.

An army spokesman confirmed there was an incident in Khan Yunis but had no details.

Also Friday, 10 Israeli peace activists chained themselves symbolically to the five-metre tall fence around the Dheishel refugee camp near Bethlehem. The activists carried signs saying "Lift your oppression from Dheishel" and "Don't be afraid, we are with you."

Israel Radio reported that Sheikh Bassam Al Sharah, a spiritual leader of Islamic groups in the occupied West Bank, was detained by Israeli forces in a raid on his home near Ramallah.

ACC calls for nuclear-free Mideast Mubarak: Iraq has no aggressive plan on Israel

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak on Friday said he had the personal assurance of Saddam Hussein that he wants only to defend Iraq and has no aggressive intentions towards Israel.

"The Iraqi president has no intention of going to war at all. Not with Israel and not with Iran," Mubarak said.

"He has spoken with me repeatedly about the peaceful approach. I have absolutely no doubt that he is bent on peace and is not a man of war or a starter of war."

Egypt and Iraq are members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which also includes Jordan and North Yemen.

Foreign ministers of the four countries met in Amman, Wednesday and stated their full solidarity with Iraq. Their statement called for a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East and for Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

Mubarak had not commented previously on an international furor caused by Hussein's speech

last Monday in which he said Iraq has binary chemical weapons and would use against Israel if attacked.

"I regret the current campaigns against Iraq which have been escalating without justification," Mubarak told reporters after Friday noon prayers at a military base near the Suez Canal city of Suez. The Middle East Agency distributed his remarks.

Before Hussein's speech, Iraq already had been at the centre of two recent international rows.

Several people were arrested in London last week on suspicion of trying to smuggle to Iraq triggers for nuclear bombs. Baghdad de-

nied it has nuclear weapons and said it needed the triggers for other scientific purposes.

On March 15, Iraq's execution of Farzad Bazoof, an Iranian-born, British-based reporter convicted of espionage, also triggered outrage in much of the West.

Mubarak said Hussein's statements about reprisal with chemical weapons were prompted by "the campaign against him that he regarded as pressure or threat." He said Hussein has told him as much since his speech last Monday.

The Egyptian president said (Continued on page 5)

ACC leaders exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday contacted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and exchanged views with him on the current Arab situations and the outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states held in Amman Wednesday.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Friday called Mubarak. Mubarak lauded Iraq's position in facing challenges confronting it.

Pope meets Arafat, reaffirms support for Palestinian homeland

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul told Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat he supported a Palestinian homeland in a 20-minute meeting Friday which touched off strong protests from international Jewish organisations.

The Pope supports both a Palestinian homeland and Israel's right to exist within secure borders, but recognises neither Israel nor the Palestinian state declared in 1988.

Meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader on the last day of his visit to Italy and the Vatican, the Pope called for "mutual understanding, (and) respect for each other's rights and fears" between Israelis and Palestinians.

He told Arafat negotiations should "bring an end to suffering and let each people live in peace, freedom, dignity, and tranquility in their own homeland, open to collaboration with the other peoples of the region."

The International Jewish Committee on Inter-Religious Consultations (IJCIC) has told the Vatican the audience threatened to open a new rift in Jewish-Catholic relations.

In an apparent response a Vatican statement said Pope John Paul has repeatedly condemned "violence carried out through terrorist means and reprisals."

Arafat was granted the audience because the pontiff felt it a fundamental part of the papal role to promote dialogue that could lead to peace, the statement said.

It was the third time the two have met.

Arafat, wearing his green military uniform and familiar Arab head dress, was taken to the Vatican under the heavy security which has characterised his visit to Italy. He met the Pope in his private study in the Apostolic Palace.

Arafat, who met French President Francois Mitterrand and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Paris Wednesday, was to conclude his visit to Italy with a visit to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis.

The Israeli embassy has also protested at the high-level welcome Italy has given Arafat, by far the most cordial of his four

(Continued on page 5)

Knesset to meet Wednesday to vote on Peres' government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog Friday threw his support behind a growing public campaign for electoral reform, expressing solidarity with army reserve officers who are staging a hunger strike to push for change.

By Friday, at least 70,000 Israelis had signed petitions demanding a change in the country's electoral system. A wide range of political, religious and student organisations urged their members to attend a protest rally in Tel Aviv Saturday.

"The momentum is enormous," said political science professor Ehud Sprinzak, organiser of the campaign. "We are trying to galvanise it into a huge political movement."

The protest came as the left-leaning Labour Party tried to form a ruling coalition, and the rival right-wing Likud bloc moved to torpedo Labour's efforts.

Critics have accused both Labour and Likud of using offers of government money and political jobs to entice small ultra-orthodox political factions to one side or the other.

Labour leader Shimon Peres announced earlier this week that he had put together a majority in the 120-member parliament, but he would not identify his backers. Israel Radio reported that Labour has signed a deal with Likud defector Avraham Shari, a former tourism minister. On Friday, Labour reportedly

tried to persuade four wavering Shari associates to also abandon Likud. Peres has offered one of the associates, Economics Minister Yitzhak Modai, the key finance ministry in a Labour government, the radio said.

Modai sought offers from Peres after several Likud leaders refused his demands for a \$2.5 million bank guarantee to back up the party's promise to make him a Likud cabinet minister.

Israel's parliament speaker has agreed to recall the Knesset (parliament) from recess next week. Parliament Speaker Dov Shilansky accepted Peres's request to allow parliament to vote on a labour-led government, but he set the day for Wednesday after a holiday.

Deputies urge Arab panel to boost Hrawi

RABAT (Agencies) — Lebanese Christian deputies urged Arab peacemakers Friday to strengthen President Elias Hrawi's army to enable him to extend his authority to the Christian enclave, diplomatic sources said.

Michel Sassin, George Sadeh, and Nasri Maalouf — all of whom signed last year's Arab League-backed Taif accord — met officials of Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia to seek fresh support for the stalled peace bid.

The initiative has run around over the refusal of rebel General Michel Aoun to relinquish power in the Christian enclave to an internationally recognised head of state.

"Aoun is the obstacle to the plan's implementation, so the next stage is to give the president as the symbol of Lebanese legitimacy the means to deal with that obstacle," an informed source said.

Aoun, who commands 15,000 regular soldiers, Thursday fought one of the fiercest battles for a month with rival Christian warlord Samir Geagea.

Geagea this week called on Hrawi to intervene to end two months of bloodshed in the Christian enclave.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia — the three countries acting as Arab League mediators — were to meet again late Friday to draw up a report on the situation.

It will be passed on to their respective heads of state before and decision is taken, diplomatic sources said.

The Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers, whose countries back opposing sides in the inter-Christian battle, have also arrived in Morocco to attend an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.

called to coordinate strategy against increased emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Meanwhile, forces of Aoun and Geagea duelled with howitzers and tank cannon for control of their tiny enclave, one tenth the size of Lebanon.

The thuds of exploding shells resounded across Beirut and the mountains northeast of the city and smoke billowed from blazing buildings. Ambulances sped through the streets.



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Immigration raises fears of Israeli threat to Egypt, others — Al Ahram

CAIRO (AP) — A leading editor Friday escalated Egypt's campaign against mass movement to Israel by Soviet Jews, writing that the Jewish state may try to accommodate them by seizing land from Egypt and its other Arab neighbours.

By including Egypt, Ibrahim Nafei of the government-owned Al Ahram implied a possible threat to Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, its only one with an Arab country.

For months, President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials have condemned the influx of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel. Commentators in state-owned and opposition media have been even more virulent.

But until the comments by Nafei, a Mubarak confidant who customarily reflects government thinking, the criticism focused on an alleged threat to the West Bank and Gaza, Arab lands occupied by Israel since 1967.

In his weekly front-page column, Nafei couched his expression of concern with criticism of both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Under the title "Major Conspiracy," Nafei wrote:

"What is the secret behind this terrible Israeli octopus? What is

the secret of this octopus that prompts the world's two super-powers to compete and excel in the service of Israeli aims?"

An accompanying cartoon depicted Uncle Sam tooting on a flute in the shape of a dollar sign and emitting dollar-sign notes. A cobra with a Star of David as its hood slithered from a jar labelled "Soviet Union."

Israeli officials have said they expect up to 750,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants by the end of this decade. U.S. President George Bush said this week more than 15,000 already have arrived this year, compared with about 12,000 throughout 1989.

Nafei alleged that the immigration problem is more massive. He quoted a "senior Soviet official," whom he did not identify, as saying that about 4 million Soviet citizens will emigrate this year, a large number of them Israel-bound Jews.

Supreme Soviet Deputy Fyodor Burlatsky predicted last

November that more than 500,000 Soviet citizens would emigrate in 1990, more than double last year's volume. He said up to 8 million people would travel abroad for visits.

"This is another major Jewish exodus reminiscent of the one from Europe to Palestine after World War II. ... This time it is aimed at the West Bank and Gaza," Nafei wrote.

About 1.7 million Palestinians live in the territories Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Israeli officials have said only a few hundred Soviet immigrants have settled there, the rest staying in Israel proper.

But Nafei predicted that the influx will displace or unsettle the Palestinians of the occupied territories. Worse, he wrote, it will lead to Israeli territorial expansion, at the expense of Arab neighbours, to accommodate the immigrants.

"The arrival of every Jewish immigrant in the occupied territories means the weakening of a Palestinian inhabitant's chance to remain on his land," Nafei said.

"What will happen after those (Soviet) millions arrive in Israel? There are undoubted fears for Jordan, which shares the longest boundary with Israel. There also

are fears for (Syrian) territory beyond the (Israeli-occupied) Golan Heights.

"And there are fears that cannot be ignored for Egypt's eastern gate, namely Sinai," Israel ruled the Egyptian peninsula for 15 years but abandoned it in 1982 under the Camp David accord.

Nafei said a conclusion is inevitable that "Israeli expansion for settlement purposes is coming within a few years — This is no ball-gazing. It is logical reasoning."

He criticised Washington's Middle East policies, especially a "watering-down" of its position on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Under former President Jimmy Carter, architect of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, they were described as "illegal."

Current U.S. policy characterises them as "an obstacle to peace." The editor also took issue with Moscow's failure to respond to Arab demands to restrict the transfer of Soviet emigrants to Israel.

And, he wrote, the Arabs themselves are impotent in the face of the threats.

"We seem to be unable to move or act, as though we are drugged or victims of a coma that grips the entire region," he said.

U.N. chief asked to condemn Palestinian assassinations

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israel has asked the U.N. secretary-general to condemn what it called "systematic wave of assassinations" of Palestinians by fellow Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"I appeal for your personal, forceful condemnation of these despicable activities," said Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli ambassador and acting permanent representative, in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

From December 1987, when the revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza began, to March of this year, he contended, more than 200 Palestinians were slain on grounds they had cooperated with Israeli authorities.

In the same period, 573 Palestinians were seriously wounded by fellow Palestinians, he claimed.

As of Thursday, Israeli soldiers or civilians had killed 671 Palestinians during the 27-month-old revolt. The tally by the Associated Press is based on Israeli army statements and hospital reports.

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories, an independent group founded by liberal Israeli citizens, had a toll of 743 deaths as of April 1, but the figure includes hard-to-prove deaths from tear gas.

Palestine Liberation Organisation spokesman Riyad Mansour Thursday said, "There are a certain number of Palestinians who have been killed because they are collaborators and this is not something new. Many movements and countries going through similar situations of occupation would deal with the issue of collaborators and impose strict measures against them."

But he emphasised that Israel had no right to criticise Palestinian actions during the intifada, said most of the violence was committed by Israeli authorities against Palestinians.

Israelis, Arab states show face of new Middle East arms race

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Iraq's announcement of state-of-the-art chemical weapons, followed immediately by Israel's launch of a satellite, has revealed the frightening new face of the Middle East arms race.

More than four decades of war decided by lightning air strikes and epic tank battles could now become devastating struggles of missiles, chemical weapons and nuclear bombs.

"Eventually Iraq is going to have nuclear weapons. Eventually Israel is going to have nuclear weapons," said Gerald Steinberg, a missile specialist at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

Yitzhak Rabin, defence minister until last month, has warned Arab countries that Israel would retaliate 1,000-fold for any attack — raising images of devastation not seen in any of the Israeli-Arab wars.

Although the military strength of Israel and the economic weakness of Arab states has created an impression of relative calm, the race for arms to be used in some future conflict is unabated.

Two years ago Saudi Arabia bought CSS-2 missiles for China. They have a range of nearly 3,000 kilometres and could send a warhead anywhere in the Middle East.

Syria has been reported trying

to buy other Chinese missiles and may have chemical warheads for its ageing Soviet-built Scud missiles.

But the two Middle East countries with real potential in the new forms of warfare, linking missiles, nuclear and chemical warfare expertise, are Israel and Iraq.

Iraq, battling Iran in the Gulf war, showed unexpected innovation in doubling the range of its Scud missiles to hit Tehran.

Since the Gulf war ended in 1988, Iraq's ambitious missile programme included tests of the 900-kilometre range Al Abbas

London of nuclear triggering devices said to be destined for Baghdad served as a reminder of its ambitions.

While most Israeli military developments are firmly shrouded by government censorship, Tuesday's launch of the scientific Ofek-2 satellite was an equal reminder of Israel's military muscle.

"Proof of the high technological level in Israel was evident today in the launch of Ofek-2 and I think the Israeli public knows defence technology in the state of Israel is of a much higher level than Iraq," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said.

Foreign reports say Israel has Jericho 2 missiles with a range of 1,500 kilometres — able to strike anywhere in Iraq — and is working on a Jericho 3 with a 1,700 kilometre range that could reach Libya.

The latest annual report by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies said Israel has stockpiled up to 100 nuclear warheads.

Steinberg said the era of limited wars in the Israeli-Arab conflict was ending, but he hoped the fear of complete destruction that restrained the United States and the Soviet Union would work in the Middle East.

"That's the most optimistic thing I can say about the situation," he told Reuters. "In the meantime we will have tension and nervousness."

NEWS ANALYSIS

and an announcement at the end of last year that it had tested a missile capable of sending a satellite into orbit.

The pace of missile development took Israeli experts by surprise, as did Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's warning Monday that he could retaliate with advanced binary chemical weapons if Israel attacked.

In 1981 Israel attacked the Osirak nuclear reactor under construction near Baghdad to prevent Iraq developing nuclear weapons and ending Israel's alleged regional monopoly.

Although most experts believe Iraq remains far from perfecting a bomb, last week's interception in

ICRC doubts renewed threat to kill hostage

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross Friday expressed doubt about the authenticity of a renewed threat to kill one of two Red Cross relief workers taken hostage in Lebanon exactly six months ago.

Meanwhile work at the humanitarian agency's Geneva headquarters came to a halt as staff protested the "Odious Act" and the "prolonged anxiety caused by the kidnappers' continuing silence," an ICRC statement said.

The statement said the ICRC was analysing a message received by a Western news agency in Nicosia late Thursday from a man

claiming to speak for the Action Group for the Release of Hariri.

The telephone caller demanded the release of Mohammad Hariri, jailed for life in Switzerland for a 1987 air hijacking, and Amis Naccache, serving a life sentence in France for trying to assassinate an Iranian emigre leader in Paris. He said if the demands were not met, one of the Swiss hostages would be executed after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, due to end about April 26.

The ICRC "has not found any proof that the caller is linked in any way with the kidnappers of Elie Enriquez and Emanuel

Christen, nor has any tangible evidence such as photographs, written messages or video tapes been provided to corroborate the authenticity of the caller's claims," the statement said.

"The ICRC's present efforts are concentrated on obtaining a sign of life from its two delegates so that it can enter into a dialogue," it said.

Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber said the government was working on the assumption that Enriquez, and Christen, were still alive and held captive together.

The two men were kidnapped on Oct. 6 in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Iraqi press denounces biased U.S. criticism

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's state-owned newspapers Friday accused the United States of ignoring Iraq's missiles and reported nuclear arsenal while criticising only weapons in Arab hands.

"Why is it that what is permitted to the Zionist entity (Israel) is not permitted to Arabs?" The daily newspaper Al Jumhuriya asked in an editorial.

"This is bias, injustice and sheer political hypocrisy," it added.

The editorial attack referred to U.S. criticism of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat Monday to use chemical weapons against an Israeli nuclear attack, and his separate vow to burn half of Israel if it made any attack on Iraq.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler Monday described Hussein's statement as "inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous."

"Why didn't the American official criticism Israel for its position on nuclear weapons and its refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty?" Al Jumhuriya asked.

The army daily Al Qadisiya said it was "not surprising" that Tutwiler refused comment on a reporter's question about "Zionist threats against Iraq, but instead criticised Iraq for its warning to the 'Zionist entity'."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in December said

Israel reserved the right to take action regarding Iraq's development of long-range missiles that rival Israel's.

Al Jumhuriya said: "The American administration encouraged Israel to launch a spy satellite to spy on Arab countries while the same American administration criticised Iraq when it tested its missile, which is able to carry a satellite."

The editorials also referred to U.S. and British accusations that Iraq tried to violate export controls by smuggling capacitors that could be used in atomic bomb triggers.

Iraq denied violating the law and said it wanted the capacitors for a university laser project. It denies developing an atomic bomb.

The ruling Baath Party's Al Thawra daily said the Western protests were "a deliberate campaign aiming at besieging Iraq and preventing it from acquiring scientific and technical knowledge."

"This poisonous campaign goes as far as providing all the means (for Israel) to carry out a new aggression against Iraq's industrial and scientific installations," the paper said.

Iraqi officials have said they are convinced that the U.S. and British criticism is aimed at justifying a repeat of Israel's 1981 air raid on an Iraqi nuclear power plant.

'Israel considers strike'

Meanwhile a leading Israeli military expert said Thursday the Zionist state could launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraq if it does not stop developing chemical and nuclear weapons.

"This is a critical point in history," Gerald Steinberg, a professor at Bar-Ilan University of Tel Aviv, told a news conference sponsored by the Israeli government.

Steinberg, who worked on U.S. arms control programmes before moving to Israel, spoke two days after Hussein spoke about Iraq's binary chemical weapons and threatened massive retaliation for any Israeli attack.

Israel was still debating what action to take to halt Iraq's programmes in missiles and chemical and nuclear weapons or the level of development it would tolerate before striking, he said.

"At some point there are going to be 'red lines' that are going to be reached," Steinberg said. "And the question is where, at what point, will Israel decide that its security requires some sort of military action."

"So if it's not reached at this crisis — and the Arab states, particularly Iraq, continue with the development — it may be reached in the next crisis in six months or a year or two years, but probably not much more than that."

He said the only alternatives to

Israel's traditional policy of deterrence were anti-missile defence, which had major faults.

Steinberg, who also worked on the U.S. space programme, said Iraq's present missiles were inaccurate and vulnerable to attack but would improve as Israel delayed responding.

Iraqi military facilities were being dispersed around the country and were built underground, guarded by anti-aircraft missile batteries, he said.

"You cannot seal off the transfer of technology hermetically," Steinberg said, noting that many Arab countries now have missiles and chemical weapons.

He said reliance on deterrence would become increasingly dangerous and compared the atmosphere in the Middle East to U.S.-Soviet confrontations in the early 1960s and the tension that preceded the 1967 Middle East war.

Although Steinberg said arms control was the desired course, he said Israel "had to retain the option to use nuclear weapons as long as it faced Arab states with much larger armies which threatened the existence of Israel."

Government official Yossi Olmert interviewed during the discussion of nuclear policy to state the official position that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East. Many in the audience burst into laughter.

Turkey boosts security in Kurdish areas

By Elif Kaban
Reuters

NUSAYBIN, Turkey — Turkish security forces patrol the port-holed streets of this tense south-eastern town overlooking the Syrian frontier, part of the measures in the region to try to stem growing separatist Kurdish rebel violence.

The predominantly Kurdish town of 80,000 people was the flashpoint three weeks ago for an upsurge in violence and protests after bleak winter months when guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) traditionally lie low.

"This is a people's movement but our government is not aware," Nusaybin's Kurdish Mayor Mustafa Yildirim told Reuters. "We do not want to be treated like second-class people."

The government says the PKK threatens people in order to take food, water and support. They are mistaken. Believe me or not, some 95 per cent of the people do this willingly," he said.

Sait, a 17-year-old youth said: "They think we are terrorists here. We are not terrorists. We are not armed."

"We were afraid of the state before but we cannot stand the physical and political suppression. We have got nothing to lose," he added.

Fifty-nine people have been reported killed in PKK-related violence in the southeast since the beginning of March, compared to 16 during the first quarter of last year.

More than 2,000 people, including civilians and troops, have been killed since mid-1984 when the PKK launched its violent independence campaign in the region near Iran, Iraq and Syria. Ankara does not recognise Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds — about one-in-five of the country's total population — as a minority and bans the use of Kurdish as an official language.

The upsurge in violence started with the death of one person during wide-spread protests at the Nusaybin funerals of two PKK

guerrillas killed by security forces.

Hayri Kozakoglu, the civilian regional governor appointed by the government, said there was no collapse in confidence between the government and the people.

"The people's support for the PKK is not growing. There is only a rise in tension triggered by inside and outside disruptive forces," he told Reuters at his headquarters in the regional city of Diyarbakir, 900 kilometres from Ankara.

"We expect the rebel attacks to increase in the spring months... we are stepping up security measures," he added.

In the border town of Cizre, 100 kilometres east of Nusaybin, armoured cars and troop-carrying vehicles are on some streets. Civilian traffic between Cizre and Sirnak, to the northeast, is banned for 12 hours each night from six p.m.

A 36-hour curfew was clamped on the town after at least four people were killed during mass

Kurdish protests following the Nusaybin clashes. Officials indirectly blamed the PKK for the Cizre deaths.

President Turgut Ozal said last week the demonstrations were part of a plan designed to violate Turkey's territorial integrity.

Officials believe the PKK receives at least tacit support from Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"We do not want to separate from the Turkish Republic. All we want is affection from the state," said Mayor Yildirim. Huseyin Kardas, an elderly Kurd in Nusaybin, said in fractured Turkish: "People are in an uprising now. The struggle has been going on for more than 10 years."

"The police are picking up people from homes at night, they question us on the PKK," he added.

"Why do they pester us when we say we are Kurdish while they can proudly say they are Turkish," said the youth Sait near a fruit bazaar where many people were speaking Kurdish.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Extremists ousted from Suez mosque

SUEZ (AP) — Muslim fundamentalists resisting a government move to take over a mosque they occupied clashed with police, security sources said Friday. Three police were injured and four occupiers arrested. The incident early Thursday was the first reported violence in recent years between police and religious extremists in Suez, a port city at the southern tip of the Suez Canal. A security source said the four men arrested, who included three university students, were being investigated on charges of resisting authority, injuring the three policemen and illegal possession of weapons. All belong to the Gamaa Islamiya, or Islamic group, a loose-knit fundamentalist organisation whose members contend Egypt has strayed from Islam. They want immediate implementation of Islamic Law. The trouble began late Wednesday when about a dozen activists defied an order from the government's Ministry for Religious Endowments to surrender the mosque. The ministry, responsible for Egypt's Muslim institutions, often uses its authority to run mosques and appoint their preachers to end takeovers by anti-government militants. But the fundamentalists, who had occupied the Suez mosque for about three months, claimed they had their own preacher and refused to let the ministry's cleric lead prayers.

'Saudi Arabia might buy British tanks'

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia may buy British instead of American tanks after Washington revised cost estimates in deal worth up to \$6 billion, a British newspaper reported Friday. The Times, quoting unidentified British sources, said Saudi Arabia, which had been planning to buy U.S. Abrams M-1A2, was now interested in the British Challenger 2 model made by Vickers Defence Systems. Vickers' Managing Director Sir Colin Chandler was expected to leave for Saudi Arabia to discuss the deal at the

end of the week, the newspaper added. The U.S. decision to close two production lines manufacturing the M1 Abrams tanks by 1993 and defence cuts raised the price to about \$5 million a tank, the newspaper said. The Bush administration said last October it wanted to sell 315 tanks to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth up to \$6 billion. It shepherded the deal through Congress, over the objections of the powerful pro-Israel lobby.

Europeans accuse Iran of human rights abuse

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Parliament has accused Iran of human rights abuses and urged it to end calls for Muslims to kill British novelist Salman Rushdie. "The European Parliament condemns all continuing gross violation of human rights in Iran," deputies said in a resolution proposed by members of a broad range of political groupings which was passed by a large majority. They demanded an end to "the policy of execution and all abuses of human rights in Iran" and called on the government to repeal the death sentence on Indian-born writer Rushdie. Last year Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accused Rushdie of blasphemy against Islam in his novel the Satanic Verses and urged Muslims to kill him, a demand reaffirmed by Iran's new leader.

Ethiopia seeks drought relief help

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia has appealed for international help in launching a food airlift to the northern town of Asmara to supply drought victims in the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray. The government called last month for \$14 million a month to fly 14 cargo planes in a shuttle from the Red Sea port of Asmara to Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. The appeal followed the capture of the Red Sea port of Massawa in February by rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
22:30 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Concert
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:20 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Surgical Spirits
21:30 Encounter
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

05:53 Fajr
05:12 (Sunrise) Dhul
11:58 Dhul

15:12 'Aur
18:43 Maghreb
19:22 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628243
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815917, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some clouds appear at low altitudes and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

AMMAN:
Min./max. temp. 6/17
Aqaba 12/27
Deserts 5/19
Jordan Valley 10/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 894184
Dr. Bahjat Bad 849262
Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 615336
Dr. Ahmad Al Natar 633934
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nabrook pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636790
Yasoon pharmacy 644645
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Al Sharra' pharmacy (983236)
ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Agrabawi (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamm Medical Centre 813813/22
Khald Medicality, J. Amn. 642816
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn. 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 624262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664174
Samani Hospital 689131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mansour Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Mahajra 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/50
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)980732
BRID:
Princess Banna Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Bin Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Hays Hospital (03)314111

Leftists forced to settle for partial control of dock workers' union

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — In an apparent departure from an emerging trend in other associations, leftists failed to unite in the General Shipping and Dock Workers Association (GSDWA) Thursday, giving way to a new executive committee split between leftists and Islamists.

Instead of the usual contest between the left and the Islamists to dominate Jordan's trade unions and professional associations, two leftist candidates competed for the presidency of the GSDWA.

Sidki Al Fukha'a, backed by the Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), defeated Walid Etawi, who was supported by both the Jordanian Communist Party and the Jordanian Popular Democratic Party (JPDP).

Trade unionists contacted by the Jordan Times said the Islamists did not field any separate candidate.

Some activists claimed that the PFLP supporters "made a tactical alliance with the Islamists to defeat the Communists."

The charges were, however, denied by Fukha'a, who stressed that there were no election lists and that the differences between the leftists were not political.

"Our main concern was to secure proportional representation for the three GSDWA branches in the general executive committee," Fukha'a told the Jordan Times.

Unlike many other associations, the GSDWA general executive committee is not directly elected by the members but by the regional executive committees in its branches in Amman, Aqaba and Ramtha.

According to the election procedures, the registered members of the GSDWA in the three branches — estimated at more than 1,550 — first elect separate local committees which later elect a nine-member executive committee.

The nine-member committee elected Thursday include leftists, independents and Islamists, but, according to activists, none of the pro-Communist or JPDP candidates made it, confining the winners to candidates supported by the PFLP and the Islamists.

Fukha'a strongly denied that the results reflected any prior agreements with the Islamists. Other activists close to the PFLP said that the Communist Party, insisted on being represented by two candidates "at the expense of proportional regional representation between the branches."

A JPDP activist said the JCP and the PFLP failed to agree while his party "was excluded from the deliberations."

It was still unclear how the GSDWA elections would be reflected in future trade union elections and the position of the left. But activists pointed out that the GSDWA election result would still help in boosting the chance of the left in elections to be held in May of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Union's central council and executive committee.

The following are the members of the new GSDWA executive committee:

Sidki Fukha'a — President; Ahmed Kehel' — Chosen to be GSDWA candidate in the Jordan Federation of Trade Union's executive committee; Abdul Aziz Oran; Ibrahim Zuhairat; Kamal Khalafat; Ahmad Al Sakar; Ahmad Khreisat; Hosni Abu Ankour; and Khameis Samour.

Arar makes plea at IPU

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has appealed to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Cyprus to help end Israel's occupation of Arab lands and implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine to ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland.

"The Arab Nation hopes that the parliaments of the world will help put an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian people, to the bloodshed and violence, and to the violation of Palestinian human rights at the hands of the neo-Nazis in the occupied Arab territories," Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar said in his address to the IPU meeting Thursday.

"The Arab people feels that the United States and its strategic ally, Israel, are both in agreement to obstruct any peaceful solution for the Palestinian issue," Arar said.

"The United States has displayed a contradiction in its policies concerning the Middle East situation by allowing the U.S. Congress to issue a statement recently declaring its support for Israel's annexation of Jerusalem to become the united capital of the Jewish state," Arar said.

Referring to the situation, in the occupied Arab territories, Arar said that since 1948 Israel had been practising all forms of repression on the Palestinians and trying by all possible means to evict the indigenous population from their homeland.

"After failing to subdue the will of the Palestinians through killings, demolition of homes and evictions or breaking the bones of young Arabs, Israel, with the help of the United States and through pressure on the Soviet Union has now embarked on a major campaign to settle Jewish immigrants on Arab lands in Palestine," Arar pointed out.

He said that the Jews are being forced to go to Palestine after all doors had been closed to them to settle in the United States and this settlement is seen as a way to prepare for the mass eviction of Arabs from Palestine.

Arar called on the IPU to denounce such practices and the Israeli American policies and to adopt a resolution against the immigration of Jews to occupied Palestine. He also urged the IPU to exercise pressure for putting a halt to Jewish immigration and an end to Washington's continued support for the Israeli aggression.

"Without a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, there can be no peace for the Middle East and perhaps the whole world," Arar said.

"Peace cannot come about with false slogans and through stealing lands belonging to other nations in violation of all international laws and principles," he added.

Peace, he said, can be established on a basis of justice and by the return of all displaced Palestinians to their own homeland and the safeguarding of the Palestinian human rights.

Panel approves employment law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The legal committee at the Prime Minister's office has announced its approval of a draft law on a national development and employment fund for 1990, according to an announcement here Friday.

The announcement said that the draft law aimed at helping find jobs for unemployed citizens and increasing production by providing vocational training courses to citizens and financing their income-generating projects.

"The fund will offer easy term loans to all groups and voluntary societies to help them create projects that would generate income for the unemployed members of society," the announcement said.

The announcement said that the fund which would draw resources from the treasury and from various donations and organisations would be chaired by Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat. "The minister will be assisted by a board grouping a number of officials and experts from the private and public sectors," the announcement pointed out.

It said that the board would be in charge of drawing up the fund's general policies, would exert efforts to raise the necessary funds for the projects from sources in Jordan and abroad and would supervise the implementation of the whole programme.

"The committee will now submit the draft law to the Council of Ministers at its coming session for approval," the announcement said.

The fund was seen as yet another measure by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to help find jobs for thousands of unemployed Jordanians in the country as pledged by the government before Parliament.

Some estimates put the number of unemployed at 60,000, many of whom are graduates from the universities and community colleges.

Obeidat said in January that unemployment in Jordan had hit 20 per cent, and promised tighter controls on 265,000 illegal foreign workers, mainly Egyptians and Syrians.

He said that unemployment was now the country's main worry and it was hoped that the number of foreign workers could be cut down to 200,000 by the end of 1990.

In February this year, the Ministry of Labour announced that its offices would stop issuing work permits to all non-Jordanians in all sectors throughout the Kingdom except for those requiring special skills.

The ministry later announced to step up inspection campaigns at all organisations to ensure that the non-Jordanians holding work permits are employed in jobs for which they had been hired.

Meeting seeks to enhance women's role

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day meeting has opened in Amman to discuss a pan-Arab strategy designed to involve women in economic and social development activities.

The meeting, attended by experts in women affairs from Arab countries and various Arab and international organisations concerned with women and development, is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who addressed the opening session outlining the aims and objectives of such strategy.

"The meeting has been called to speed up the process of pan-Arab economic and social development with women's participation," the Princess said at the opening session.

"Economic and social development is an objective in itself because it is bound to help solve various problems in the Arab World," the Princess added at the meeting.

The team of experts has been selected by the Arab Association for Women and Development, a group headed by Princess Basma and assisted by a team of experts on women affairs in the Arab World.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Friday chairs a meeting on devising a pan-Arab strategy to enhance women's role in society (Petra photo)

World," the Princess added at the meeting.

The team of experts has been selected by the Arab Association for Women and Development, a group headed by Princess Basma and assisted by a team of experts on women affairs in the Arab World.

"The association aims at emphasising the need to utilise women's potentials in the process of development, and the meeting has been called to discuss plans for the association's projects and programmes that could be carried out anywhere in the Arab World," the Princess said.

The association, she said, is a pan-Arab group concerned with women and development in the Arab World, and constitutes a sort of framework for organising and concerting efforts by Arab men and women aimed at boosting women's role in economic and social development.

Stolen mosaic floor recovered

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mosaic floor stolen last Sunday from Qasr Al Hallabat, a desert castle dating back to the second century AD has been retrieved and the thieves are reported to have been taken into custody awaiting trial.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said that the security forces had found that part of the mosaic floor had sustained some damage probably during the transportation of the floor.

According to Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali, a three-member gang had stolen the mosaic floor from the ancient site, cut it into three parts and carried it to a hiding place in Jerash. He said that the thieves had planned to smuggle the ancient mosaic abroad and sell it to antique dealers.

According to the PSD chief, all border posts had been alerted to prevent the mosaic floor from being smuggled abroad and police in various towns stepped up search campaigns to find the robbers.

"A member of the police force in charge of the investigation into the theft had posed as an antique dealer and contacted members of a suspect group offering to help smuggle the mosaic floor and help in marketing it abroad," Ali said.

He said it was this trick and the efforts of the rest of the police force that led to the capture of the thieves and the recovery of the mosaic floor.

The PSD told the Jordan Times Friday that the three men involved in the theft are being interrogated and they would soon be asked to enact the robbery as part of the police investigation procedures.

"Only after the investigations have been completed, the thieves can be referred to trial and the whole floor restored to the Department of Antiquities," a PSD spokesman said.

He said that the damaged part of the mosaic floor was to undergo repair by experts from the Department of Antiquities.

The 30 square metre mosaic floor represents a tree of life and a variety of animal, human, floral and geometric motifs dating back to the Umayyad era in the first half of the eighth century AD.

Qasr Al Hallabat is the most ruined of all the big desert castles in Jordan. Located 25 kilometres north east of Zarqa, about an hour's drive from Amman, the castle was first the site of an early second century AD Roman fort or watch tower that helped protect the western hills and plains of modern Jordan against attacks from the east.

Police said that the thieves had made use of the stormy weather at the time of the theft and committed the theft at a time when the caretaker was away in the evening.

Department of Antiquities Director Ghazi Bisheh said that it must have taken the thieves up to six hours to work to lift the whole floor from its place before cutting it into pieces to be carried away.

Jordan probes Indonesian market

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At a time when Jordan is seeking international exposure and export promotion, the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) is organising an exhibition of Jordanian goods in Indonesia aimed at opening new markets for Jordanian products.

According to Halem Abu Rahme, executive manager of JTA, the Jakarta International Exhibition is of great importance to Jordan because it is a chance to enter into another foreign market. "The market is large with different segments, therefore a lot of opportunities are open for us," Rahme told the Jordan Times.

The Jakarta fair was visited by one and a half million people and individual companies last year, Rahme said. A similar number is expected this year, including about 25 participants. Jordan has rented a space of 144 square metres for a period of one month. Professional organisations will be lending their services to design stands and distribute mail, etc.

The Jordanian project is expected to cost around \$50,000, which is partly funded by JTA and partly by the participating companies.

A study was made before JTA committed itself to the Jakarta fair, Rahme says. "It proved that Jordan has the potential in the Indonesian market of over 180 million people," he said. Various locally-made products which are seen to have potential include veterinary products, pesticides, electrical accessories, fertilisers, textiles, and carpets, in addition to pipes for construction and sanitary use, locks, paints, tobacco, valves, gas cookers and canned food products, he said.

By participating in the fair JTA also hopes to establish a trade between the two countries. Having paid several visits to Indonesia to explore this prospect, Rahme says he feels the response is good. He is optimistic

over the idea of a barter of Jordanian products for Indonesian raw material such as wood, paper, chemicals and iron.

JTA, which was established at the beginning of 1989, aims to develop and expand exports, identify new markets, provide services to database and library facilities on world export markets, trade opportunities and technical specifications of goods and services, according to Rahme.

This year, JTA is also looking towards entering the American market. Rahme points out that the U.S. is a huge market with tremendous buying power. "It is not difficult to penetrate into the U.S. because the smallest section will be enough for the whole of Jordan," he says. "High quality is not an issue since most retailers accept the Jordanian standard of quality," he said.

Already, Jordan pharmaceuticals and Dead Sea bath salts have entered the U.S. market, says Rahme. But JTA is hoping to attract drip irrigation products, carpets and rugs, textiles, baby buggies and fruits and vegetables to the U.S., he said.

In order to achieve this goal, JTA, with the help of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), will be inviting U.S. importers to Jordan — instead of Jordan going to America — to identify certain locally made products that could prove successful in the U.S. The end result is a sale to America and an improvement of quality, according to Rahme.

The idea of inviting U.S. importers to Jordan is to expose Jordanian goods and to enable the importer to see the country and its options for exporting. It has been proven more successful than the usual manner of exporters visiting the target country, says Rahme.

With the world market becoming more consumer oriented, Jordan is seen by many Jordanian exporters and specialists as heading in the right direction.

New border post to open

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of setting up a new border post on the Jordanian-Syrian border area was discussed here Thursday at a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh.

The border post which would handle customs and passport affairs for travellers is to be ready once the work on a new road from Amman to the Syrian border had been completed, before the end of 1990, an announcement said.

It said that the road, which is now nearing completion, extends from Amman and Mafrqa north reaching the border in the north.

According to the announcement, a decision has been taken for the work to start immediately on the new border post so that it would be ready when the highway has been completed.

At present there is only one road that goes to Syria and that is through Amman-Jerash route going northwards to Ramtha.

The meeting, Thursday also discussed the construction of a road which can link the present border post of Ramtha with the new border post which is to be called Jaber border post; this would give further facilities for travel within the northern Irbid governorate.

The projected road would help stimulate touristic, economic, industrial and social development in the northern regions.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Minister of Transport Ibrahim Avoub, Public Security Department Director Fadel Ali, Customs Director Adel Qudah,

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King attends Friday prayer

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayer, which was held at Prince Hassan Mosque in Shmeisani, and listened to Friday sermon delivered by the Armed Forces mufti, who addressed some of the issues that interest the whole Muslim nation. Also attending the prayers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, His Majesty's private chamberlain, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs minister, chief Islamic justice, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, Public Security Department director, senior military and civil officials, and a large number of worshippers. On Thursday King Hussein hosted an iftar at Zahran Palace. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the Lower House of Parliament, court judges, presidents of the Jordanian universities, speaker of the Palestine National Council, presidents of professional associations, heads of Christian communities, senior officials, directors of information chief editors of the Jordanian newspapers.

Registration for pilgrims starts today

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqr Friday said registration for people wishing to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca would start Saturday (today), and would last until May 10. The minister said at a press conference held at the ministry Friday, that the first batch of pilgrims will be leaving Jordan on June 18. He voiced appreciation to the Saudi government for the tireless effort it makes to facilitate the pilgrimage process. Faqr noted that the ministry has been able this year to reduce the cost of transport and housing to JD 90 per Jordanian pilgrim. All issues pertaining to the transport of pilgrims and their accommodation will be handled by the newly-established National Corporation for Pilgrimage Services.

Zarqa deputies review Ruseifa problems

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governorate deputies discussed with citizens in Al Ruseifa the general situation in the city, problems facing the citizens and the proper solutions for these problems. The main issues under discussion were the garbage dumping site southeast of the city with its bad smell and the health hazards it causes. Some specialists attending the meeting recommended the removal of the dumping site. They said the site will affect the underground water in the area in the future besides being a source of diseases. The deputies expressed their understanding of the issue and readiness to take appropriate measures.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroidery, ceramics, woolen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiyya Community College.
- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art and craft exhibition by inter-schools at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

Jordan celebrates World Health Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with the world countries Saturday celebrates the World Health Day, which coincides this year with the 42nd anniversary of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

On the occasion, Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben Friday made a statement in which he highlighted the important role played by WHO in addressing health issues, and noted in particular its contribution towards addressing the environmental issues.

The main theme of this year's celebration focusses on the relation between health and environment.

"The improper disposal of waste and the misuse of insecticides, in addition to the industrial hazards and the irresponsible practices of the advanced countries, particularly those having nuclear power, pose real dangers to the environment and jeopardise the human life on this planet," Zaben said.

Zaben pointed out that Jordan had played a major role in protecting its environment through the construction of sanitary sewage systems, water networks, water purification plants and directing special attention to the surface water.

Zaben stressed the importance

of community participation in addressing sanitation and environmental issues.

Also speaking on the occasion was WHO Director-General, Hiroshi Nakajima, who said that many diseases are caused by the degradation of the environment.

In a special appeal made on the occasion, Nakajima warned of the erosion of the ozone layer, the acid rain, the climatic changes and the chemical pollutants.

The WHO official said that his organisation was resolved to focus on measures that are within the reach of "our individuals and communities in their search for an end to the environmental degradation."

He called for increased cooperation and coordination between the industrialised and developing nations, in an effort to reach feasible and action-oriented solutions to the environment problem.

WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean region Hussein Jezairi said the "major problem threatening our planet is the environmental pollution which has reached a dangerous stage, thus warranting a large-scale action on the part of individuals, groups governmental and non-governmental organisations alike."

See related story on page 5.

Citizens complain of prices, lack of meat

DEIR ABU SAEED (Petra) — Citizens in Al Koura district are complaining of insufficiency of some food supplies in the markets, and the absence of supply censorship.

Citizens say that there is insufficient frozen chicken and meat for their needs during the month of Ramadan and claim the absence of censorship by the Ministry of Supply led to selling live chicken at high prices.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, conducted a survey in several villages of the district and found

that live chicken is sold only in villages, and merchants price it at will.

According to the survey prices differ from one village to another. As an example, a kilogramme of cleaned chicken in Jifin is sold for 880 fils while at Beit Elides it is sold for 950 fils.

Frozen chicken and fresh meat imported by the Ministry of Supply does not suffice the district's needs since the district's weekly quota assigned by Irbid supply department is 60 boxes of frozen meat besides small quantities of imported meat.

ties of imported meat.

Al Koura District Governor Aref Abu Karaki affirmed that his office had informed the Ministry of Supply of the situation and the citizens' needs of food supplies.

The Ministry of Supply secretary-general said the ministry would increase Al Koura district's quota to 150 boxes of frozen chicken per week and it (the ministry) is ready to distribute imported meat to the district.

CUNARD ELLERMAN MIDDLE EAST/ RED SEA SERVICES WIN GOLD AWARD

Cunard Ellerman's Middle East and Red Sea Services have been voted the world's best in an annual poll conducted by the influential U.K. magazine British Shipper.

Readers of the magazine vote each year for the shipping line which provides a consistently high level of service to its customers.

"This is the third consecutive year that Cunard Ellerman's Middle East/Red Sea Services have won the British Shipper gold award" said the Chairman and Managing Director of Telstar Marine Agencies, Cunard Ellerman's agent in Amman.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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A watershed in Tokyo

IT IS MOST gratifying to note that Japan is seeking a higher profile in the Middle East. The news that Tokyo is actively arranging a meeting between Israel and the PLO augurs well for the Arab-Israeli conflicts. For many decades now the traditional superpowers had almost monopolised the quest for a solution to the Palestinian problem and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. Their lack of success suggests that either they did not have the sufficient will and determination to help find the desired solutions or were incapable of doing so for a multitude of reasons paramount of which was their traditional rivalry. While the end of superpower competition may usher in a new era in the Middle East power politics, there is still doubt whether Moscow and Washington would opt to put their heads together to resolve the Middle East conflicts, be they on the Arab-Israeli front or on Iraq-Iran front. There would always be the haunting suspicion that the meeting of the minds between them may not serve the cause of peace in the region. The fact that the two superpowers are sufficiently independent of Middle Eastern oil could end up depriving them of the needed incentive to strive more actively in the quest for peace in the Middle East. Seen against this backdrop, both Europe and Japan stand out as more concerned major powers with a vested interest in seeing peace reigning supreme in the Middle East. Europe made many attempts in this direction but all in vain. Now it is Japan's turn to explore peace in the Middle East and it may very well succeed where all others have failed. That is why the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict owe it to Japan to extend to Tokyo all forms of support and appreciation for the new role that it is earnestly trying to play in the Middle East. The policies of the Middle East could use new blood and Japan can offer the kind of missing catalyst that the parties to this conflict are impatiently waiting for. The fact that Japan needs Middle Eastern oil and is dependent on it for the continuation of its economic miracle would suggest that Tokyo will try even harder than others to seek peace in the Middle East. Any such Japanese involvement in the Middle East need not preempt any other involvement, be it American, Soviet or European. Since the crux of the problem in the Middle East is the Palestinian problem and that there is no way to crack the Palestinian nut without an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, what Japan is trying to do now in terms of promoting such a dialogue can go a long way to facilitate the resolution of this dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday hailed Syria's stand with regard to the ongoing hostile campaigns on Iraq and said that that support from Damascus to Baghdad in the face of Israel's conspiracies means further solidarity among the Arabs in the face of external challenges and threats. The paper said that such solidarity is being bolstered in the first place with the firm and unequivocal stand by the countries of the Arab Cooperation Council in support of Baghdad's stand and its determination to defend Arab soil. Solidarity among Arab states is the first step in a long process of joint action that can deter the enemy and put an end to Israel's arrogance, the paper said. Solidarity and mutual cooperation in the face of Israel between Syria and Iraq and between Iraq and the other Arab countries means reviving the eastern front that confronts Israel and its aggression, the paper added. This is a real chance for the Arabs to breathe life again into the eastern front and to reactivate and bring back to life the Arab League's joint defence pact which makes it necessary for an Arab country to come to the help of another in case of external threat, the paper noted. The revival of the eastern front vis-a-vis Israel, said the paper, is bound to create a strategic balance with the Israeli enemy and could prompt the Israelis to opt for peace after all. It said that the eastern front will serve as a deterrent for Israel's aggression and can help lay the foundation for real peace in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackles the National Medical Institute (NMI) which only came into being a few years ago. Salah Abdul Samad says that the NMI is now at a crossroads with the resignation of its Director General Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. His resignation follows a long and heated public controversy over the usefulness of such institution and the duties it should shoulder in developing health and medical services in Jordan, the writer says. He notes that the question is whether the Ministry of Health should take over control of all medical and health services as before and whether the NMI will be allowed to survive with new authorities. The writer notes also that the government should reconsider the whole issue in the light of its policy of incorporating various institutions performing similar tasks with a view to preventing dual action and saving funds and expenses. Abdul Samad says re-examination of NMI's position is imperative now in view of the accumulating debts it is shouldering and with the purpose of re-organising health and medical system with the purpose of providing better medical services to the public.

Al Dustour daily Friday voiced deep satisfaction over the pan-Arab support for Iraq in confronting the Western-Israeli campaign. The paper said that the ACC foreign ministers who concluded a meeting in Amman have openly expressed backing for Baghdad in the face of the external threats and voiced their countries' commitment to the joint defence pact. What is more important, the paper said, is their call for a free nuclear zone in the Middle East and inspection of Israel's nuclear facilities, the paper noted. The ACC countries, it said, proved to be well aware of the looming danger and stressed their determination to stand by Iraq in its confrontation with any Israeli aggression, a position which should now be copied by all Arab states because they are all facing a common threat, the paper added.

View from Amman

The Fertile Crescent: A strategic look

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

ONCE, there was a rabbi called Eliezer Schash, who in the magic land of Israel became the reincarnation of a Biblical tradition; long thought to be dead in what was once called Palestine. In the tradition of earlier Judges he, from a Tel Aviv basket ball stadium, thundered his condemnation of Israelis present day politics, especially those of the Labour party of Shimon Peres. Labour has severed the link with the past of its forefathers: it, and its kibbutzim... "raise (non-kosher) rabbits and pigs..." he said.

It was thus that his support was withheld from Peres, who is not likely to be able to form the next Israeli cabinet.

The issue for the white bearded rabbi was not the Intifada Palestinian rights, Israel's practices in the occupied territories or future relations with the Arabs. The issue

concerned the non Kosher raising of pigs and rabbits. And we, in the Arab World, like the rest of the world sat glued to our T.V. screens wondering what the venerable rabbi would say and what would be the fate of the Peres efforts to form a cabinet, and by implication what would be the fate of the "peace process", indeed what would be our own future.

Once I used to think, indeed dream that Israel's survival was predicated upon its acceptance by the Arabs. In watching the rabbi speak before an audience of almost twelve thousand bearded, black-coated and black-hatted ultra-orthodox Jews, the realisation finally dawned on me that it's our fate, indeed our survival, that is predicated upon Israel's will and not the other way around.

No tears came to my eyes with the sad realisation and no

rebellion either. For I too seem to have acquired that sense of dense insensitivity that the Arab body politics appears to have developed. How did I, we become this way? Who is responsible and why? Are questions that will continue to seek answers for a very long time to come. History will judge, and those who had eyes to see and chose not to see will be judged by it. Why have we not been able to respond properly? to respond at all? Who is responsible for the demolishing of an entire nation and undermining its will so that it is reduced to the condition that it is presently in?

Indeed, the greatest struggle is against one's self. But where do we begin? Our leaders seem, in their isolation from us, to be in the same quandry and as they struggle to ignore the problem in the hope that it will go away it continues to

become more pressing.

The time, the historical moment seems to be right for what Prince Hassan once warned of: the atomisation and balkanisation of the Arab East. The historical Persian Jewish, today Iranian — Israeli alliance, dating from the sixth century B.C. is still active. Neither Iran nor Israel is willing to contemplate peace. Both seem hard at work rearming and rebuilding their arsenals and both nurture an historical hatred of untold proportions. Fundamentalists both, and thinking in millennial terms they revived the old connection aiming at containing, indeed reducing the center, the Fertile Crescent, to the level where by they can at least control its destiny if not govern it directly. The mixture of religious fervor and chauvinist nationalism fed by a sense of martyrdom and messianic zeal is indeed a

dangerous combination. Even Ethiopia to the south is nibbling at our exterminities, while our waters can be denied us when the fancy strikes some of those around.

This is not an alarmist cry but a realistic assessment of the historical and the contemporary forces presently at work in the Middle East. Day by day, Israel is building its might. Already it has become, in reality, an empire in the area, the whole Middle Eastern area and not just the Arab World. Iran too remains a potential threat with its leaders, shah's or mullahs bent on building, rather rebuilding, their empire and averging themselves. While President Rafsanjani calls for an army of twenty million, Israeli settlements are spreading not in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights alone, but in the Ar-

quous region of Lebanon as well. And we continue to meet and discuss. We continue to protect and to past revolutions while the interests of those who harm us continue to prosper. Worse still is the fact that Arab money continues to be invested for the benefit of those whose policies are at the centre of our plight.

Israel, with the entire Western world as its strategic depth, is already an empire whose rabbi decide our fate. Rabbi Eliezer Schash, the bearded, 96 year old leader of two political groupings was right when he concentrated on what he considered essential in Israel: Kosher food and the raising or non raising of pigs and rabbits. That, indeed, is not a nation in danger, when it can concentrate on such luxurious debate, the fate of its governments accordingly decided



Free Slovene elections usher new era in Yugoslavia

By Andrej Gustinic
Reuters

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia — Yugoslavia's maverick republic of Slovenia on Sunday holds the country's first multi-party elections since World War II, ushering in a new era of democracy after 45 years of Communist rule.

Seventeen political parties and groups of all shades will contest the elections in the northwestern republic that could oust Slovenia's Communists, even though they have changed their name and split from the crumbling federal party.

Local officials in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, say a coalition government is likely because no party looks strong enough to win outright.

They say the ex-Communists are unlikely to get a majority in parliament but may buck the trend in Eastern Europe by putting up a respectable fight because they have long been pro-reform.

The polls could also change the face of Yugoslavia because factions in the main opposition groups advocate Slovenia's secession from the rest of the Balkan federation — the key question dominating the election campaign.

It's impossible to predict how Yugoslavia will look at the end of this year, said one Western diplomat. "It may be a federation, a confederation or it may not exist at all."

Elections follow two weeks later in Croatia and some other republics are expected to hold elections in the next year.

In Slovenia, the 17 parties and groups will be running for 240 seats in the regional parliament. Four candidates, including former regional Communist Party chief Milan Kucan, are contesting the post of president of the republic.

The main opposition forces are the Democratic Opposition of Slovenia (Demos) anti-Communist coalition and the Greens of Slovenia, an environmentalist party which led in a newspaper opinion poll this week.

The main left-wing groups are the ex-Communists, who split from the Yugoslav Communist Party and renamed themselves the Democratic Reform Party (DRP) in February, and the Liberal Party — a former Communist front organisation.

All are opposed by independent candidate Ivan Krnemberger,

a rich inventor who, dressed in black, often rides around Ljubljana on a bicycle with his pet monkey. He told his rivals on local television recently that they send him to sleep.

Independent groups have blossomed since Slovenia, which has strong Western European cultural and historical roots, became the first republic last year to allow opposition parties. Slovenia has long been at odds with more conservative republics by advocating considerably more radical democratic reforms, including press freedoms and political and economic changes.

"I doubt whether any party will get an absolute majority in Slovenia so there will be some sort of coalition in parliament," a Slovene political analyst said. "It's not that people necessarily trust the new parties, most of whom have little or no political experience, but the same instinctive anti-Communism that is present elsewhere in Eastern Europe also exists in Slovenia."

The ex-Communists' failure would be another blow to the beleaguered federal Communist Party, which is split by rows over reforms, its own role and the future shape of Yugoslavia, a federation of eight republics and provinces.

But Kucan says the Communists in Slovenia are in a better position than their counterparts in Eastern Europe.

Slovenia's Communists have long been at the vanguard of reform and advocate Western-style social democracy. Kucan is considered popular and is widely tipped to become president.

"The process of democratisation flowed more naturally in Slovenia and one of its main generators was the Communist Party," Kucan told Reuters in an interview. "The opposition has only one programme and that is to defeat Communism."

Demos, a coalition of several parties including the Social Democrats, Christian Socialists and the Peasants' Union, wants Slovene sovereignty inside or outside Yugoslavia, privatisation of all firms in the republic and a Slovene currency.

Demos has nominated Jozse Pucnik, a dissident who spent seven years in Yugoslavia jails as a political prisoner, as its candidate for president.

Some Demos leaders advocate secession from Yugoslavia.

By Mary Beth Sheridan
The Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy — Carlo Testi remembers when the problem of illegal immigration came to his door, right on the Via de' Calzadelli, one of the most fashionable streets in this renaissance city.

First, a few African immigrants spread blankets on the pedestrian mall, putting out sunglasses and fake Louis Vuitton bags for sale. Then others came, and soon there were 400 vendors.

"People couldn't pass any more," Testi said, gazing down the street from his family's century-old hat shop to the 14th-century Ponte Vecchio Bridge. "It was a desperate situation."

These days, not an African vendor is in sight. Florence dispatched hundreds of police in March to round up illegal immigrants and vendors in an operation that newspaper bed a "witch-hunt for blacks."

Coming after a bloody attack by local youths on African immigrants, the police sweep has raised an outcry and made Florence, the birthplace of Renaissance humanism, the symbol of a national debate about immigration and racism.

"Italy has given the world 26 million emigrants," Deputy Premier Claudio Martelli said recently. "Is it possible that the (world's) fifth or sixth industrial power loses its bearings, is torn apart, or reacts with furor and malice before the difficulties and problems raised by a few hundred thousand immigrants?"

The attack and police action shocked Italians, who pride themselves on tolerance and have a long emigrant tradition.

"People also yelled crook, swindler, invader at my father in Boston," Monsignor Luigi di Liegro, Rome director of the charity organisation Caritas, said in a

Violence erupts as Italy struggles with immigration

recent interview in the newspaper La Repubblica.

Violence against immigrants has been a problem in recent decades in central and northern European countries as they have absorbed citizens of former colonies and guest-workers from poorer countries. In recent weeks, France has seen a wave of racist attacks against North Africans.

The explosion of racial tension in Florence is linked to Europe's newest wave of immigration: Poor Africans, Latin Americans and others heading for southern European countries which have enjoyed economic booms but which still lack the immigration controls imposed in recent years by France, England or Scandinavia.

With an estimated 100,000 illegal immigrants a year, Italy has become the focal point of the new migration, experts say. But despite its strong economy, Italy has difficulty absorbing them because of scarce housing and poor public health and education systems.

"In the past year, the amount (of immigration) has been huge and unforeseen," said Giorgio Morales, a Socialist who was forced to resign as Florence's mayor following the police sweep.

"These new phenomena have come in a short time in Florence and because of this there has been a reaction of intolerance."

Estimates of the number of illegal immigrants in Italy range

from 500,000 to 1.5 million.

Ugo Vittorio Saibante, an immigration expert with the government's national council of the economy and work, said he believed the number was about 1 million, up 100 per cent from 1985. Only about half have work permits, he said.

Authorities say many of the illegal immigrants are doing jobs Italians don't want, particularly in the countryside, where thousands pick tomatoes, help fishermen of work in small factories.

However, Saibante said, "there is a tendency among people from less developed countries to go to the cities... but in the big cities there are many fewer possibilities."

In Florence, troubles started about a year ago, as more and more African vendors filled the streets around the Duomo Cathedral and the 14th-century Palazzo Vecchio city hall, which attract thousands of tourists daily. Initially, police ignored them.

But Florence's strictly regulated souvenir and handicraft vendors were furious. Shopkeepers were also up in arms.

"To see all these people here in the centre wasn't good for tourism," Testi said. "The image was ugly."

The African vendors say they simply were trying to earn a living while searching for a steady job. They accuse the shopkeepers of racism.

"We must sell to pay the hotel," a 26-year-old Senegalese

vendor explained in broken French, referring to the cheap room he shares with another vendor.

In February, about 4,000 residents held a "march of defenseless citizens" against a crime wave many people attributed to immigrants working for Italian-run drug and prostitution rings.

Days later, the tension exploded: Dozens of young masked "avengers" armed with baseball bats and iron bars went on a rampage during pre-Lent carnival celebrations, beating up African immigrants.

In mid-March, spurred by citizens' complaints, Florence authorities ordered hundreds of police into the streets to detain illegal immigrants and chase away the African vendors.

A string of other racist attacks in major cities followed, and vendors responded with a hunger strike and sit-down protest.

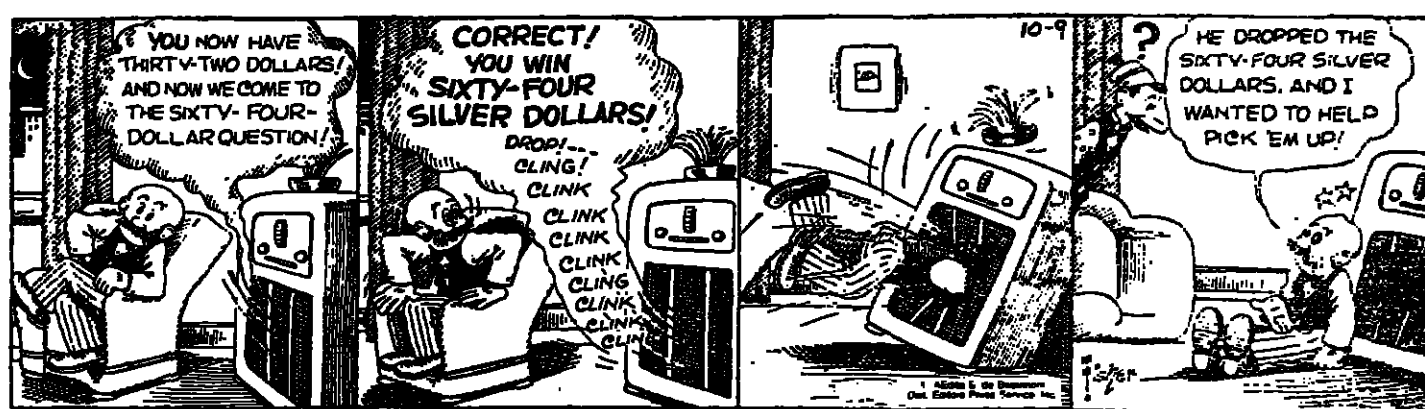
Italian officials hope to defuse the tensions linked to the flood of immigration with a new amnesty law sponsored by Deputy Premier Martelli, a Socialist.

The controversial measure allows foreigners who were in Italy before Dec. 31 to receive work permits and benefits. Unlike an unsuccessful 1987 amnesty, the new law imposes heavy penalties on employers who don't legalise their workers, and it establishes strict rules on who can now enter.

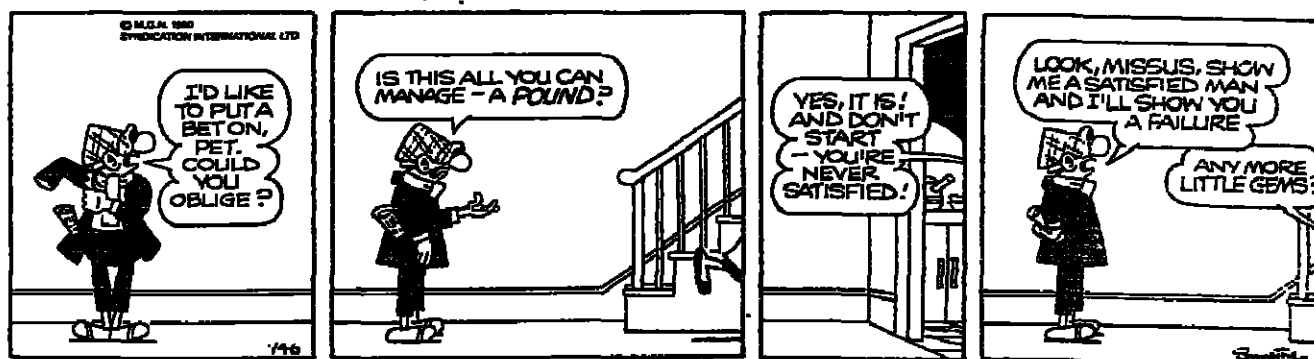
Critics predict the measure will not slow the flood of immigrants, who often come by sea and don't pass through border controls.

"With the amnesty... Italy has sent a message: whoever enters this country not only will never be thrown out, but sooner or later will be regularised," said Giorgio La Malfa, head of the Republican Party, part of the governing coalition. The party voted against the amnesty measure in parliament.

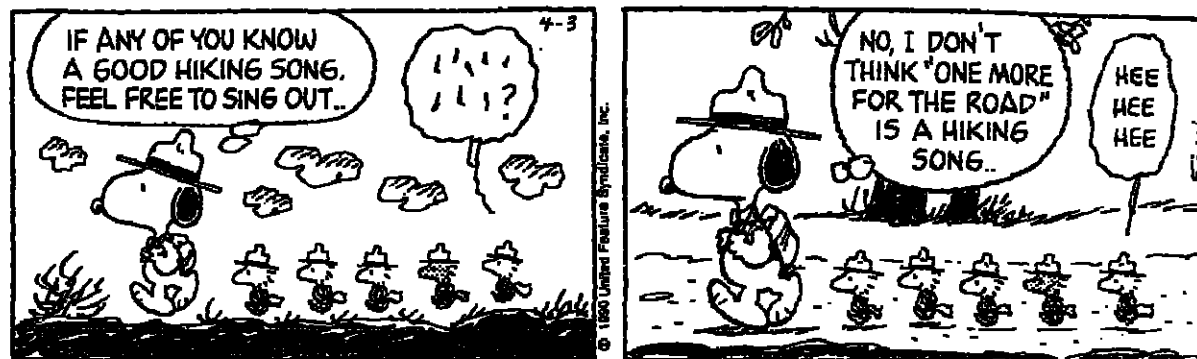
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



World Health Day focuses on nature and environment

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the occasion of its 42nd anniversary, which falls today, as World Health Day with environmental health as the central theme under the slogan: "Our Planet, Our Health; Think Globally, Act Locally."

The slogan calls on governments and non-governmental organisations as well as communities and individuals to

coordinate and work together to protect the environment. The issue not only the responsibility of certain environmental organisations, but also of every individual, according to WHO.

Environmental specialists at the health education division of the Ministry of Health, say that World Health Day provides a chance to review and monitor the progress achieved so far towards realising WHO's goal. By the year 2000, all citizens of the world shall have attained a standard of health

which enables them to be socially and economically productive.

An ambitious goal indeed, but Sami Dalaimi, chief of the environmental health department, says that problems cannot be resolved by one country alone because one country's negligence will affect not only its neighbours but also the entire world. Thus there must be local activities and international activities in order to realise the goal, he points out.

Jordan has been very active in participating in environmental conferences and activities, says Dalaimi. With the signing of the Hague Convention and Basel protocol as well as organising and attending international conferences Jordan's activities today are widespread, he told the Jordan Times.

According to Sahar Halassa, a specialist in health education, the activities include spreading awareness amongst Jordanian people through lectures and educational programmes. Environment-oriented competitions will also take place in schools; such as who can draw the nicest picture of the environment. There will also be tree planting campaigns because trees are known to help clean the atmosphere from pollution. In addition, there will be lectures in universities and in mosques. "The activities aim at drawing the public's attention to the importance of protecting the environment from the dangers threatening man and wildlife," Halassa says.

However, environmentalists maintain that although there is increasing awareness and shared views, human activities still continue to alter the composition of the earth.

All countries are threatened by certain dangers and Jordan is no exception. According to



Jordan faces air pollution, particularly in downtown Amman where the heavy traffic of vehicle result in emission of carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide

Dalaimi, Jordan faces threats such as air pollution, especially in the downtown area where the heavy flow of vehicles result in carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide which are detrimental to the lungs, throat and eyes. He adds that certain factories emit sulphur into the atmosphere as well. These include the Jordan Petroleum Refinery and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station, which emit some 27,000 tonnes of sulphur each year, according to environmentalists. Food safety is also a threat to Jordan, according to the health education division. Food is a more important transporter of disease than people are aware, especially those purchased from street vendors, says the department.

Solid waste dumping, according to Dalaimi, attacks public health. Accumulated waste provides food and shelter to insects and rodents and it blocks water drainage channels in addition to being ugly sites in residential areas.

Toxic wastes are also being discharged in unknown places and in unknown amounts, say specialists. These issues, add to the dangers Jordan faces from worldwide threats; namely climatic changes resulting from atmospheric pollution. The rise in sea level of about 30 centimetres to 1.5 metre by the middle of next century, causing floods and land destruction, and the depletion of the ozone layer which causes skin cancer, in-

dustrialisation which has increased carbon dioxide emissions and other noxious gases into the atmosphere — known as the green house effect. It is estimated that by the middle of next century world temperatures will increase by three to nine degrees Fahrenheit because of the green house effect.

Clearly, World Health Day will not resolve environmental problems, but environmentalists hope that the general awareness will increase through campaigns and educational programmes and the public will look at the issue with more seriousness and importance. "Each and every individual can make a difference," says Dalaimi.

Your cat has fever? Your dog has a rash? Try C.W. Schaubhut

By Caren Ross
Reuter

NEW YORK — For a cat with sneezing fits, try onion capsules as a cure. For an itchy dog, a dose of poison ivy. And for a constipated pet python, diluted strychnine.

So says maverick veterinary surgeon Dr. C.W. Schaubhut, one of a growing number of homeopathic doctors whose treatments are based on a principle of "like treats like." The best remedy for an ailment, they say, is one that mimics the symptoms.

People are paying hundreds of dollars a visit to have their pets treated with these age-old remedies made mainly from plants and minerals.

"We've just scratched the surface of what this is all about, even though it's as old as a tradition as any sort of medicine," Schaubhut said in his Manhattan clinic where he helped dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov's black standard poodle deliver pups.

Schaubhut relies on regular veterinary treatments for about a quarter of his patients. But the rest of the time, he says, sweeping his arm past hundreds of vials of natural remedies, all that's needed is a good dose of some of these to wipe away even the most stubborn of ailments.

Hysteria in your chihuahua? Heart disease in your ferret? Homesickness? Arthritis? Diabetes? Schaubhut says he's got a cure for it all.

As he spoke, a stocky black dog, yelping and obviously in pain, sidled into the clinic. "Oh

is that the Rottweiler?" Schaubhut grumbled. "I know him. He's really a rough guy."

The animal had vicious diarrhoea and the doctor prescribed arsenicum album — arsenic so diluted with milk sugar that the final capsule contains only one one-millionth of a gram of the poison. He explained: "The arsenic causes the lining of the intestines to degenerate and you begin to bleed and haemorrhage and become very dehydrated."

"Small doses alert the body to the ailment and rally its own disease-defence system," he says.

This works? the dog's distraught owner nods.

In the waiting room, pet owners dote on their ailing animals. Animals in the intensive care unit wake drowsy from surgery. They have had tumours, claws or ear mites removed or have been neutered. Many will get homeopathic follow-up treatment.

A cat, whose vision was blurred and balance impaired after a picture fell on her neck, was given belladonna — "an herb named for beautiful Italian ladies who used to put it in their eyes to make their pupils dilate for flirting," Schaubhut said.

Rashes and skin eruptions are often treated with microdoses of poison ivy, and hayfever with onion abstract — or octopus ink, depending on the time of day the sneezing fits occur. The doctor's remedies are usually made from plants and minerals but he also uses "nosodes" — substances made from pus and other fluids. Some substances are extracted from solid tissues.

Royal commission to be named

(Continued from page 1)

position of the three groups which had previously categorically rejected the idea of a national charter. Officials of the three groups had stressed in the past that there was no need for a charter and that the Jordanian Constitution included all the needed provisions to regulate political parties.

But, according to political sources, the recent deliberations between senior Royal Court officials and representatives of the three groups resulted in agreement on the part of the latter to join the committee.

Sources close to the JPDP and the PFLP said that while the two groups initially opposed the idea, discussions with senior officials succeeded in allaying their fears that the charter would aim at imposing constraints on political parties and limiting the participation of the left.

On Friday a senior official from the PFLP, Azmi Khawaja, told the Jordan Times that the three groups were going to coordinate their position within the committee.

In a statement distributed last month, the Muslim Brotherhood deplored the national charter should exclude the Marxist left from the country's political life and include a commitment to liberate all of Palestine.

Personalities who were already approached for appointment to the committee said that they did not discuss the contents of the charter with Royal Palace officials. "We discussed modalities and the way the committee is expected to work," said one of them on condition of anonymity.

Although the Jordan Times could not obtain all of the names of the personalities who were approached, the following are the names of 19 figures who were summoned to the Royal Court last week to join the

committee: Ibrahim Bakr (lawyer); Laila Sharaf (Upper House member and former information minister); Hamad Farhan (Upper House member and a leading member of the Al Qawayim nationalist movement in the 50s and 60s); Asma Khader (lawyer and human rights activist); Said Al Tal (former minister and university professor); Ali Abu Nuwar (former chief of staff of the Armed Forces and a leader of an opposition "free officers' movement" in the 50s); Amin Shukry (former leading Baathist and now member of the Upper House of Parliament); Abdul Latif Arabiyat (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Balqa); Youssef Al Athem (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Maan); Majed Khalifeh (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Amman); Abdullah Akayleh (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Tafleh); Ishaq Farhan (Muslim Brotherhood member and member of the Upper House); Mohammad Fares Tarawneh (Baathist deputy from Karak); Muna Shukry (pan-Arab nationalist writer and agriculturalist); Tayseer Zibri (general secretary of the JPDP); Issa Midanat (political bureau member of the Jordanian Communist Party and deputy from Karak); Theeb Marji (deputy from Irbid); Hamadeh Faraneh (writer); and Akram Zaiter (Upper House member and historian).

In addition, the following are expected to be included in the committee: Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeidin, Aida Al Mulaq (political activist from Irbid) and Iyad Qattan (director of the Royal Cultural Centre and a writer).

According to the sources, heads of professional associations and unions are also expected to be named members of the panel.

Mubarak defends Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

the United States joined in the anti-Iraq campaign, although he praised President George Bush for "very moderate and balanced" statements.

Following is an unofficial translation of the final statement issued by the ACC foreign ministers in Amman Thursday.

The foreign ministers of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) held an extraordinary meeting in Amman, Jordan, between April 4-5, 1990 to discuss the challenges facing those states and the Arab Nation as well, especially in the light of the escalated, unfounded and hostile campaign against Iraq.

His Excellency, Mr. Tareq Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, gave a full and documented presentation of the various aspects of the ongoing campaign which might be a preparation for hostile actions against his country. Mr. Aziz presented all documents and facts relating to the subject demonstrating, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Iraq was trying to obtain, through proper commercial means, and in small quantities, some material for a university scientific programme.

The documents which were presented to the meeting showed that the U.S. authorities, in coordination with the British ones, implanted, purposefully, an agent of the Federal Investigation Bureau (FBI), in the American company which is producing the said material in order to twist a purely legal transaction and turn it into a sting so that Iraqi agencies will be boxed and the entire matter would then be exploited for political purposes. However, the facts show that those agencies remained committed to their original requests dedicated to purely scientific ends by the university of technology.

Thereafter, the ministers reviewed the ongoing vicious media campaign and malicious political statements heaped against Iraq whether in connection with the execution of the indicted Israeli spy or the latest developments, all of which could only be viewed as a preparation for launching a premeditated attack against Iraq similar to the Israeli aggression against the peaceful Iraqi nuclear installations in 1981; that aggression which was unanimously condemned by the Security Council in its Resolution 478 (1981), notwithstanding the fact that such venomous campaigns are being fuelled to divert attention away from continued Israeli suppression of the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people to perpetuate Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and finally justify its stalling of the efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

The ministers affirmed that the national security of brotherly Iraq is part and parcel of pan-Arab security and the member states of the ACC as well as the entire Arab Nation are committed to defend Iraq in case of aggression or threats of aggression by any side, thus declaring their full solidarity with Iraq in its resolute resistance to all ill-will deeds and fabrications; which the ministers de-

mand be stopped.

Also the ministers expressed their commitment to Iraq's right together with all Arab countries to economic, development and scientific and technological advancement, emphasizing that the capabilities of Iraq or for that matter any Arab country are for legitimate self-defence against external attacks, and not intended to threaten or attack any party.

The ministers drew the attention that among the aims of this campaign was the disruption of Euro-Arab dialogue which was relaunched recently and the worsening of historical Euro-Arab relationship, especially in light of the forthcoming European position vis-a-vis the Palestinian question. The ministers called upon friendly European countries to be alerted to this, and to avoid any moves that could negatively effect such relations, or harm their growing. They stressed that the common interest of both parties requires more cooperation between them.

In this regard the ministers affirmed that their countries being parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are working continuously towards declaring the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons. They called upon the international community to obligate Israel to comply with international will and adhere to the NPT, and submit its nuclear facilities to the international supervision and guarantees system as called for in Security Council Resolution 487. They also expressed their conviction that any successful and effective international resolution for matters related to proliferation of chemical weapons should be based on a comprehensive approach which include all kinds of weapons and systems of massive destructive nature, whether nuclear, chemical or biological. Only this approach would lead to regional and international security. They affirmed that foreign nuclear, chemical and intelligence threats facing the Arab Nation necessitates that the Arab states demand commitments to international obligations and treaties in a comprehensive fashion.

The ministers also recalled the resolution adopted by the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in its meeting in Amman in February 1990, concerning Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and East Europe. They stressed their countries' rejection to this immigration which would result in settling the new immigrants in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the expulsion of the Palestinians from their homeland.

The ministers unanimously agreed that the challenges facing the Arab Nation, including the current campaigns against Iraq, coupled with frequent Israeli threats against Jordan require utmost alertness and preparedness by the Arab Nation and calls for a unified Arab stand to protect Arab lands and legitimate interest.

The ministers also decided to keep the matter under review and they agreed on certain steps regarding this issue.

Pope meets PLO

(Continued from page 1)

visits, and similar to that accorded heads of state.

The embassy charged Italy had provided Arafat with a stage for propaganda. His visit to Assisi, officials contended, was a "ridiculous" attempt to make him a symbol of peace.

The Vatican has no formal diplomatic ties with Israel. It has cited Israel's unsettled boundaries, the "contested status" of Jerusalem and the Palestinian question as the reasons for the absence of relations.

In a statement after Friday's meeting, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the Pope agreed to meet Arafat to encourage "any positive attitude in the search for peace and especially to strengthen the will for a dialogue as the only valid way to find adequate solutions for conflicts."

Navarro said the Pope noted that this is the season of important religious holidays, the Christian Easter, the Jewish Passover and the Muslim Ramadan.

"The Pope expressed the strong hope that Almighty God wishes to listen to the pleas of so many faithful, and in particular of those people of the Middle East, and grants them the so-desired peace in justice and security," Navarro said.

Navarro said the two men also discussed the civil war in Lebanon, with the Pope stressing that the use of arms would not succeed in bringing dignity and concrete sovereignty to that country. Arafat said Thursday he had asked deputies in the Israeli parliament to vote for Labour Party leader Shimon Peres in his battle to form a government.

Italian officials said the PLO chairman told Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti:

"I have asked Arab deputies present in the Knesset to vote for Peres and it will be the first time this happens."

The officials said Arafat made the statement after Andreotti urged him to help Peres form a government for the sake of peace talks.

Jordan, IMF reach accord

(Continued from page 1)

Economists said Thursday's statement, coupled with the expected release of \$22 million IMF credit, indicates that the IMF was satisfied with Jordan's efforts to meet targets stipulated in the economic restructuring programme agreed with the fund in April last year.

"It means a green light for Jordan as well as commercial bank creditors to initiate the process of rescheduling," said economist Fahed Faneek.

Jardaneh told the Jordan Times the Kingdom was seeking to obtain the \$150 million loan from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) rather than the Export-Import Bank of Japan. He explained that OECF terms were softer in comparison with the Export-Import bank. "The matter is under study," Jardaneh said without elaboration.

Thursday's statement carried by Petra said that the IMF delegation discussed Jordan's economic performance and

financial and monetary policies in 1989 and those to be implemented in fiscal 1990. The statement noted that the Kingdom had managed to bring down its trade deficit to a level lower than specified in the economic restructuring programme.

Jordan, which has a foreign debt of \$8.06 billion (revised figure), has already rescheduled payments due in 1989 and 1990 to its major creditors.

Thursday's statement described the Jordan-IMF talks as "very successful and fruitful... characterised by complete understanding."

Despite a projected JD 199 million deficit in the 1990 budget, Jardaneh said last month the "outlook is bright for the Jordanian economy" and expressed confidence that the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves would be raised to \$650 million from the present \$380 million by the end of the year if anticipated Arab financial assistance materialises.

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Japan interested in Iraq development plan — Chalabi

Iraq to work for stable oil supply, united OPEC

TOKYO (Agencies) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) group of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait are working for stable oil supply and prices and a united OPEC, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said.

"We will be doing so because we are Arab countries, all in the Gulf, and we are major producers with spare capacity," Chalabi told Reuters in an interview.

OPEC's top priority now is to improve oil prices to secure earnings for all members, ensure bigger output to meet growing world demand and stave off another energy crisis, he said.

Chalabi said he will meet his Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti counterparts before the bi-annual full ministerial OPEC conference set for May 25 in Geneva to coordinate the views of the Gulf producers.

Asked if Iraq is trying to be a leader of OPEC, Chalabi said, "there is no leader among OPEC, all 13 members have an equal share of responsibility... and they are equally important."

"But Iraq, now being without the (production) constraints it had before... we feel this is an excellent platform to safeguard the interests of producers and consumers," he added.

Both Iraq and Iran had export problems during their eight-year Gulf war which ended in August 1988.

To maintain stable oil prices, the best OPEC can do now is to meet every six months and set pricing and production targets, while closely watching market forces, the minister said.

"We cannot set long-term targets. Oil prices depend on market forces and other factors like accidents," Chalabi said.

OPEC holds the key to maintaining stable supplies of crude oil to world consumers now that

supplies from outside the group are declining, he said.

The world's largest oil producer, the Soviet Union, is faced with a decline in capacity, and the world's biggest oil consumer, the United States, is increasing imports, he added.

Saudi Arabia has the world's largest oil reserves, and Iraq has the second largest, oil industry sources say.

In coordinating the different views among the 13 members of OPEC, "there needs to be a combination, one way to meet the desire of those countries with spare capacity and those who cannot raise capacity and wish to see higher prices to secure national revenues," Chalabi said.

Chalabi joined a global campaign, launched by OPEC Secretary-General Subroto, to call on major consumer nations to provide financial assistance to OPEC producers to avert an oil supply shortage in the 1990s. Chalabi declined to disclose how much money Iraq needs to develop new fields found in the 1970s.

Ramzi Salman, president of Iraq's State Oil and Marketing Organisation (SOMO), told Japanese consumers when he visited Tokyo in February that Iraq wanted \$30 billion to expand capacity by two million barrels per day (BPD) by 1995, oil industry sources have said.

Chalabi said Iraq plans to raise its output capacity by 1.5 to 2.0 million BPD in three to four years from around five million BPD now.

Chalabi also said Friday Japanese companies have shown strong interest in his invitation to develop known Iraqi oil fields at their own expense and be repaid in oil from the fields.

Chalabi also said Iraq wanted to increase oil sales to Japan,

whose 200,000 BPD purchases from his country amounted to only about six per cent of its total purchases.

"I think we will see an increase throughout this year," he added at a news conference after a series of meetings with Japanese officials and oil company executives.

He said he also sought increased Japanese participation in Iraq's overall economic development efforts after the 1988 ceasefire in its war with Iran.

Concerning Iraqi oil fields discovered in the 1970s, Chalabi said, "we made a scheme whereby we would be asking those companies which are interested to develop the fields through their own finances, with payment to be made from the crude oil produced from those fields."

While long-term supply contracts would be worked out, he added, no equity or production-sharing arrangements would be offered because "there is no exploration risk in this scheme."

He said his delegation had met with almost every oil company in Japan, and they had shown strong interest, forming task forces to study the plan.

Iraq also has talked with U.S., British and European companies about the effort to expand Iraq's oil production capacity, he said.

Keeping oil producers' overall capacity ahead of demand, he said, would avoid future "oil shocks" in which prices shot up.

But he added that consuming countries could not expect producers to sink their export revenue back into the development of oil fields serving the needs of those consumers.

"So it is also the responsibility of the consumers to take active measures to increase the production capacity," he said.

Chalabi said, "all indications show there has been and is going to be an increase in demand."

Egyptian economy sluggish in 1988/89 — central bank

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, struggling to cope with heavy foreign debt and foreign exchange shortages, said economic growth slowed last year and blamed external factors for the downturn.

Giving the first overall official picture of Egypt's economic performance in 1988-89, the central bank said both the budget deficit and trade and balance of payments deficits increased for the year which ended June 30.

In its latest annual report, obtained by Reuters this week, the bank blamed the poor performance on a decrease in financial aid from international donors and bad farm harvests.

"The decline stems mainly from negative effects of outside elements. Terms for trade exchanges were not in favour of the national economy," the report said.

"Net financial flows from donor nations have also declined. This was coupled with unfavourable conditions for the agricultural sector," it added.

The report said preliminary figures showed a budget deficit of 8.2 billion Egyptian pounds

(\$3.1 billion), 13.8 per cent up on the previous year. Preliminary figures have traditionally greatly underestimated the size of the budget deficit.

And the trade deficit widened to \$7.53 billion from 6.57 billion the year before.

Egypt stopped repayments on much of its foreign debt in July 1988 and has been holding talks since then with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank on a package of economic reforms.

It needs IMF approval before it can reschedule some of its foreign debt, estimated to total \$50 billion.

But with no agreement yet signed, it has been running an increasingly hand-to-mouth existence as foreign creditors demand repayment of outstanding debt before giving fresh aid.

In a report underlining the extent of Egypt's economic problems, the bank said gross domestic product (GDP) grew by five per cent to 45.4 billion pounds (\$17.13 billion at current rates) in 1988/89, compared to 5.9 per cent the year before.

Diplomats say official figures tend to over-estimate the extent of real GDP growth, and have said there may actually have been little or no growth in 1987/88.

Growth in the agricultural sector — accounting for about 20 per cent of GDP — fell to 2.4 per cent from 3.4 per cent, due to poorer cotton and rice harvests.

Exports dropped to \$2.55 billion from 3.27 billion because of cheaper world oil prices. The current account deficit also rose to \$5.70 billion from \$4.63 billion.

The IMF has prescribed a tough programme to rescue the Egyptian economy, pushing Cairo to raise interest rates, devalue the Egyptian pound and cut its budget deficit.

The government, while agreeing in principle with many of the reforms, has argued about the timescale, saying that too rapid changes could unleash social unrest.

However, Cairo has made progress in parallel talks with the World Bank and has announced tentative plans to sell off parts of its huge public sector — a key World Bank recommendation.

Romania seeks investment to build a market economy

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania, flooded with short-term relief aid since December's revolution, seeks up to \$2 billion a year in long-term credits and investment to build a market economy, a senior official said Friday.

Following Eastern Europe's bloodiest revolt against Communist rule, Romania would still need emergency supplies, especially medicine and hospital equipment, government aid chief Eugen Dimaescu told a news conference.

"We need a tremendous amount of foreign assistance," he said.

More than 75,000 tonnes of food, clothes, medicine and other relief aid from foreign charities, governments, companies and individuals in 46 countries have poured into Romania since Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu

was ousted in a revolt stoked by acute shortages.

Trucks and trains come in almost daily, mainly from the west, carrying goods ranging from contraceptives to complete clinics, from old clothes to typewriters, from milk powder to toys.

West Germany has pumped in free electricity to end power cuts.

"I cannot say when the emergency stage will end," Dimaescu said. "We still need a lot of support in things like medicine, medical equipment, food, clothing, fodder for animals."

But in the next few years, as Romania moves from a state-run to a free enterprise economy, it would need \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion a year in investment, credits and aid, she said.

Petru Rares, another official in the government aid commission,

said Romania would be competing with Poland, Hungary and other East European countries to get its share of western assistance.

"It's a kind of competition between all East European countries to get what they can as well and as profitably for them," he said.

Dimaescu said the need for foreign credits to back projects to be agreed between foreign and Romanian firms might mean that Romania — which cleared its foreign debts under Ceausescu's austerity policies — would get back into debt.

"This government and any government which will follow will act in the same way," he said. Free, multi-party elections for a new president and parliament are due May 20.

'Landmark' U.S.-Japan pact sparks controversy

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Japanese negotiators are asking their governments to approve a landmark agreement marking a new era in relations between the world's two largest economies. But congressional sceptics in the United States questioned the Japanese would live up to their part of the bargain, and Japanese business and consumer groups strongly objected to parts of the agreement.

President George Bush hailed the accord reached Thursday as a landmark agreement marking a new era in relations between the world's two largest economies.

But congressional sceptics in the United States questioned the Japanese would live up to their part of the bargain, and Japanese business and consumer groups strongly objected to parts of the agreement.

Parts of the agreement could take years to carry out. Many measures are subject to legislative approval.

In Tokyo Friday, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu warned his nation in a televised appearance that the coming economic changes could "in some cases be painful" but would lead to an improved quality of life.

Kaifu told reporters the promised package of reforms would benefit not only the United States and Japan, "but also the whole world, serve to prevent the rise of protectionism, and thus contribute to the steady development of the world economy."

Some Japanese commentators have berated their government for relying on U.S. and other outside pressure to make reforms it is too weak to push through on its own. They said such reforms could strengthen Japan's economy in ways that would make it an even more formidable.

The unprecedented agreement followed four days of marathon bargaining in Washington. The talks, known as the structural impediments initiative, were devised by the administration last July as a way to attack the underlying reasons for America's \$49 billion trade deficit with Japan.

For the first time, representatives of sovereign states set about reviewing each other's economic failings and making suggestions for changes.

From the lengthy lists supplied, both governments drafted a set of commitments that they would be willing to make.

The Japanese proposals, if implemented, would be much more far-reaching in their impact than the U.S. proposals, which essentially recycled past administrative initiatives.

But members of Congress said they remained to be convinced that the Japanese were serious about making the changes needed to open their markets to more foreign goods.



George Bush

"Put me down as a sceptic who has seen too many (Japanese) agreements in which the results didn't match the rhetoric," said Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the Democrat who chairs the Senate Finance Committee.

In its 22-page list of promises, the U.S. side said it would work to balance the federal budget, improve the U.S. educational system and boost incentives for personal savings.

Tokyo, in a 32-page list of promises that turned out to be more comprehensive than many critics had expected, pledged to alter the closed-door policies Japanese businesses have long employed to keep out foreign competition.

In Japan, among the more controversial elements of the agreement was a promise to open the economy to large stores.

"The decision will do nothing but weaken minor retailers, devastate shopping districts, and slow down economic and cultural development of the community," the Federation of Specialty Stores Associations said in a statement Friday.

The Federation, which claims a membership of 50,000 small retailers, said it would fight the change.

The Ministry of Trade says Japan has 1.6 million retail shops with fewer than 50 employees, and 800,000 tiny "mom-and-pop" stores.

Yuri Takada, chairwoman of the Housewives' Association, told Kyodo News Service: "Because discussions have been made in closed meetings, we feel as if we were totally left out."



Toshiki Kaifu

Japanese officials said Japan agreed to improve implementation of the law immediately, revise it next year and then review it again in another two years.

If improvement is not seen then, specific areas of the country would be exempted from the law, they said.

In many ways, the Japanese list of proposals seemed like a blueprint for transforming a work-obsessed, thrifty country into a nation more like America — with more leisure time, expanded options to buy consumer goods at lower prices and more access to personal credit.

Administration officials said that while Americans have developed an inferiority complex over Japan's economic prowess, they too often forget the high price Japanese consumers have had to pay for their nation's trade superiority.

"It has resulted in a standard of living that the American people wouldn't trade for," said Undersecretary of State Richard McCormack, the head of the U.S. delegation. "We live far better, we have far better houses, we have far better access to products that are much cheaper."

The agreement on reducing structural barriers was the latest in a string of trade concessions that Japanese government has made since Kaifu and Bush met in California in early March.

In the past two weeks, negotiators have reached agreements to expand markets for American-made telecommunications equipment, satellites and supercomputers.

The flurry of agreements was seen by some as a last-minute effort by the Japanese to avoid being targeted again this year as unfair traders. That designation means the administration could retaliate by doubling the tariffs on selected Japanese goods sold in the United States.

Iran seeks foreign investment

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian official said Thursday that lists of projects for which foreign investment were needed have been sent to Iranian missions worldwide.

Morteza Alviri, head of the parliament's Plan and Budget Commission, told the AP that any country with which Iran had diplomatic relations could invest in Iran.

But he said priority would be given to companies which offered training, transferred technology and made maximum use of Iranian resources.

Alviri admitted that in the parliamentary debates on the five-year plan, which was approved in January, about 80 of the 270 representatives had opposed the government's plan to seek foreign investment.

Hardliners in the Iranian hierarchy demand a more centralised economy and oppose foreign investment because they say this will plunge Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

Alviri said foreign investments were encouraged, but no straight loans would be sought.

He said foreign investments would be paid back by income generated from projects in which the investments were made.

Alviri said Iranian factories were working at 30 per cent capacity, and that boosting production was one of the government's major concerns.

He said another major task was to designate a realistic exchange rate for the rial, which is kept artificially inflated at 70 rials to the dollar.

That rate is artificial because on a free market basis the rial trades at 1,300 to the dollar or more.

Alviri said the solution is probably devaluation but "the time we will do this has not been finalised."

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has said his country will seek \$27 billion in foreign investments in the framework of a five-year plan to resuscitate the ailing economy.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 5, 1990		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	French franc	117.3 118.0
U.S. dollar	670.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.6 427.1
Pound Sterling	1102.8	Dutch guilder	350.0 352.1
Deutschemark	394.0	Swedish crown	109.2 109.9
Swiss franc	445.6	Italian lira (for 100)	53.6 53.9
		Belgian franc (for 10)	190.6 191.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6390/6400	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1670/80	Canadian dollar	
	1.6970/77	Deutschemark	
	1.9090/9100	Dutch guilders	
	1.5000/10	Swiss francs	
	35.05/10	Belgian francs	
	5.7000/50	French francs	
	1247/1248	Italian lire	
	157.32/42	Japanese yen	
	6.1325/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.5600/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4800/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	378.60/379.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's sharemarket closed firmer in lethargic trade with a strong Japanese market providing the only real impetus locally. The All-Ordinaries Index finished up 7.3 at 1,512.9.

TOKYO — Active institutional buying of domestic issues and bursts of futures-related buy programmes shot the key Nikkei Index to a close of 29,278.78 up 1,029.72 pts.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking centring on blue chips brought Hong King's Hang Seng index off late-morning highs to close slightly lower at 2,956.12, down 4.76.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a weak note as share prices continued to fall over a broad front for the third straight day. The Straits Times Index was down 20.07 at 1,503.30.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell for the second day in a row on heavy profit-taking by institutional investors, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange index dropped 23.70 points to 770.74.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed 0.5 per cent lower, after prices looked set to challenge record levels early in the session. The Dax slipped 10.55 to 1,947.84.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer near the day's highs in lively trade. Dealers said the strong recovery in Tokyo stocks supported sentiment. The SPI Index ended 8.3 up at 1,084.2.

PARIS — Share prices surged to new highs by midday with dealers euphoric over the outlook for the French economy. The CAC-40 index was up 45.75 at 2,073.81 by 1000 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were easier and near the day's lows in early afternoon, partly undermined by easier sterling against the dollar and the mark. The FTSE Index was down 18.0 at 1600 GMT at 2221.5.

NEW YORK — Futures-linked selling erased early stock price gains that were mainly prompted by weaker than expected March U.S. employment data. The Dow fell 16 to 2705.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 7, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is fine for settling up matters already begun with other persons and any and all cooperative plans. Yield to your desire to produce results and go after what you want with enthusiasm.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The daytime is excellent for making new arrangements where associates are concerned and then in the evening you can put in motion specific details.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Much activity of a meticulous and fine nature can be done by you today after which you can get into the public eye and make excellent progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) All sorts of interesting entertainment is now available to you so get appointments made and tonight do whatever activities have been put aside.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can handle whatever pertains to home and family matters very well after which get off to some new amusements and have a wonderful time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Talk out whatever interesting ideas entering your consciousness today with those who can help materialise them and in evening do what family desires.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put yourself in the position where you can add to your present income by whatever right means are available and you make quick progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be on the lookout for the things you want the most as they are at your fingertips today, then in evening get into making better budgeting of assets.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Private plans of all kinds can be organised so you gain them more quickly and satisfactorily after which you can get your personal affairs in order.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind of a worldly nature should be put into motion in a confidential manner using the day and night go after more intimate aims.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You find one who admires you will aid you to gain the personal conditions that you desire, then you can be with attachment for quiet happiness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to what your active qualities tell you is a new way to progress and then make big strides towards this, which can then be used in public.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can get into whatever promises you have made and carry through with ease and efficiency after which get off to new interests, make them yours.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Corbin

ACROSS
1 Be jam-packed
5 Imposter
13 Girl of "Green Mansions"
14 Khan for one
15 Musical fall
17 Murmurs
18 Rough-edged
19 Kind of zone
20 Essential mealtime
23 SASE a.g.
24 Pleasant
25 Lush
29 Roving for adventure
32 Tampa's st.
34 Ship over
36 Spooky
37 Colleen
39 Make clothes
40 Cupola
41 Mountain spur
43 "Many — is lost." (Franklin)
46 Crow
47 Caribbean country
49 "Looking —" (Bailey)
51 Movie
53 Addition
54 Handy man
55 Impotent
57 "Time — of joint" (Shakespeare)
64 Peel
65 Pig
66 Chutzpah
67 TV's Gray
68 Additions
69 Legal paper
70 Cult

DOWN
1 London trolley
2 Ireland
3 Ms Lazarus
4 Expert
5 Lettering aid
6 Rhiparus
7 Surmounting
8 Funny Jackie
9 Walked quickly
10 Dayton's state
11 City on the
12 Ogles
15 Fit a loose
16 Swoosh
21 Poker money
22 Farm area
25 Bright
26 Light
26 Canvas holder
27 Actress Bonet
28 Watery swelling
30 Bouquet
31 Fr. city
32 Youth
33 Dieter's concern
35 Sheep
38 Labels
42 Singer
43 Pinza
44 Urged on
45 Dissembler
48 In conclusion
50 "The — of" (Bums)
51 Knowledge
52 Facilitated
54 Boring
55 — ben Adhem
56 Seafood item
57 Knowledge
58 "My — is like a..." (Bums)
59 Challenge
60 — the Red punches
61 Dispatched

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

HARRIS 3-28

"Hello, Veterinary Clinic? I'd like to have my wife's personality de-clawed!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYSUF
HAGUL
LUBBEA
MILTEG

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SIXTY MINER PLOVER DULCET

Answer: A man usually can't think straight when he only has this — CURVES ON HIS MIND



Scenes of Swissair's Artistic Cycling and Cycle Soccer International Tournament 90 which opened Friday night under the patronage of Mr. Thabet Al Taher, minister of energy and mineral resources at the gymnasium of the University of Jordan. The entry to the tournament, which continues Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 p.m., is free of charge (J.T. photos).



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSCH

NEW STAR SHINES BRIGHTLY

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 5 2
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ K 6 5 4 2

EAST
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K 10 5
 ♦ Q 10 6 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 6 4
 ♥ A Q 8 6 4 2
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ A 7

The bidding:

West North East South
 2 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♥
 Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Jack of ♠
 In the final of the Venice Cup, the U.S. Women's Team trailed the Netherlands going into the last quarter of the match, but recovered splendidly to win the world title. However, the Dutch can take heart from the performance of the newcomers to their international team. Watch the technique of Ellie Bakker in this contract.
 After a weak two-spade opening by West, South's balancing bid of three hearts bought the contract.

After the lead of the jack of clubs, it might seem that declarer must lose two spades, two diamonds and a trump. But declarer read the hand beautifully and, with the help of a loser-on-loser play, brought home her contract.

The opening club lead was taken in the closed hand and the ace of hearts was cashed. Declarer crossed to the king of clubs and a second trump was led from dummy. East tried the ten, but declarer covered with the queen and, when that won, continued a trump to force out the king.

East shifted to the queen of spades. Declarer took the ace and led a club from the table, discarding a spade from hand. East could do no better than lead her last club, but declarer again refused to ruff. Instead, she shuffled her remaining spade.

Now East was down to nothing but diamonds, so that defender had no choice but to break the nut. Since West was likely to hold an ace for a vulnerable weak two-bid, declarer elected to play low from hand. When that fetched the ace, declarer had held her losers to one trump, one diamond and two clubs!

Palace goalkeeper banishes memory of 9-0 defeat

LONDON (R) — When Liverpool played Crystal Palace in the English soccer league late last year they won 9-0 and shattered Perry Suckling's goalkeeping career.

Niel Martyn, Suckling's replacement at Crystal Palace, is unlikely to emulate his unhappy predecessor when the teams meet again in an F.A. Cup semifinal at Villa Park Sunday.

"I haven't spoken to Perry about it and I don't think I want to. I'm not thinking about the 9-0 match at all," he said.

"The most I have ever conceded in a game is four, and that has been with Palace this season," said English soccer's first one million pound sterling (\$1.6 million) goalkeeper.

Manager Steve Coppell signed the England B'keeper from third division Bristol Rovers in the aftermath of the Liverpool match to plug his team's glaring defensive gaps.

Martyn had his first taste of the league leaders' awesome attacking strength in the return league match in January, which Palace lost 2-0 although they dominated much of the game.

"I am not worried or nervous — I'm just really excited. This is the biggest game I have played in and that includes representing England in B internationals and at under-21 level."

"We are hoping that we will be keeping a clean sheet Sunday, and although everyone has written us off there is a quiet but

determined mood," he said. Manchester United play the other F.A. Cup semifinal against second division local rivals Oldham Athletic, who have won widespread praise despite losing their last three league games.

"I have great respect for Oldham and for what they have achieved. In my look they are without doubt the team of the season," said United manager Alex Ferguson Friday.

Ferguson, enjoying the unaccustomed luxury of wondering whether to play England stars Bryan Robson and Neil Webb from the start, knows defeat at neutral nearby Maine Road would add to the doubts lingering over this tenure at Old Trafford.

"The match could involve extra time which is an additional factor I have to consider when I pick the team," he said.

"Bryan Robson has really tested himself over the last 10 days and is looking strong. There just remains the question about his sharpness. The same applies to Neil Webb."

From only six first division ties Saturday, the match of the day is likely to be Nottingham Forest, thrashed 4-0 by Everton in midweek, at home to Tottenham.

Aston Villa, in second place three points behind Liverpool, have had their league match against third-placed champions Arsenal moved forward to midweek to meet live television demands.

Rookie shoots near-record 64 to lead 1990 Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia (R) — Journeyman Mike Donald, who never dreamed of playing so well, shot a dream-like eight-under-par 64 Thursday to lead the first round of the 1990 Masters.

"When you're a kid growing up you always dream about playing in the Masters," Donald said after his amazing round in his maiden Masters. "I never played that good (in my dreams)."

"All I can say is that was the round of my life," the 34-year-old Donald said after he combined brilliant shot-making with some luck to come within one stroke of the course record for the Augusta National Golf Club's 6,905-yard course, home of the Masters since 1934.

Donald, an 11-year pro, posted seven birdies in nine holes in the middle of his round to take a two-stroke lead over John Huston, who was also playing in his first Masters. Peter Jacobson was another stroke back at 67.

Like Donald, neither Huston nor Jacobson made a bogey. Bill Britton, who eagled the 405-yard 14th hole, posted a 68 and was the only other player to break 70 on a day when many of the world's best golfers seemed to struggle.

Paul Azinger, second leading money winner on the U.S. tour, shot an eight-over 30 after making a 10 on the 465-yard, par-five 13th hole.

While Azinger was enduring that nightmare, Donald was living a dream come true.

After opening with three pars, thanks to two good chip shots, he ran off three consecutive birdies

with puts of 40, 20 and 15 feet on the 4th through 6th holes.

"After that I felt I had a cushion (cushion)," said Donald, who just missed an eight-foot birdie putt on number 7.

He closed out the front nine with a 20-foot birdie at the 8th hole and a chip-in of 40 feet on the 9th. "I was just trying to get close," he admitted.

Donald's front nine of 31 was just one stroke off the course record.

He started the back nine by sinking a six-footer for a birdie and saved par at 11 with a sand shot to eight feet after slicing his drive right through some big pine trees.

Donald, who also led the first round of the 1984 U.S. Open only to finish "about 35th," then birdied the par-three 12th with a putt of 1-1/2 feet.

"I was just trying to get it on the green," he said of his seven-iron tee shot on the 155-yard 12th hole — the heart of Augusta national's famous Amen Corner.

Donald's final birdie came at the 500-yard 15th when, playing conservatively, he laid up with his second shot and gave himself a four-foot birdie putt with a 77-yard sand wedge shot from the fairway.

Donald's 64 was one shot off the course record of 63 that was posted by Nick Price of Zimbabwe in 1986.

"I was hoping I didn't shoot a bad round," Donald said of his first Masters appearance.

Seven players posted 70s on a warm, sunny day which grew increasingly windy, including former Masters champions Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Larry Mize and back-to-back U.S. Open winner Curtis Strange.

Masashi (Jumbo) Ozaki of Japan, who tied for sixth in last year's U.S. Open, was also at 70. Defending champion Nick Faldo of Britain, who had five birdies and four bogeys, was among eight players who shot one-under 71.

Thirteen players matched par, including 50-year-old Jack Nicklaus, fresh off a victory in his first Senior tournament last week.

"Seventy-two is not a bad round today," said Nicklaus, who has won the Masters six times, two more than anyone else. "Those few (leading) scores don't really tell the story of today. It got a lot tougher as the day went on."

Joining Nicklaus at 72 were three members of Europe's victorious 1989 Ryder Cup team, Ian Woosnam of Britain, Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain and Briton Ronan Rafferty, and Australians Wayne Grady and Peter Senior.

Another Australian, Greg Norman, who was a heavy pre-tournament favorite, got off to yet another poor Masters start.

Playing for the first time with Nicklaus, his mentor and good friend, he bogeyed three of the first four holes and staggered in with a 78.

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Natal factional fighting claims 10 lives New violence flares despite S. African accord on peace talks

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — New fighting between black factions in Natal Friday left at least 10 people dead, despite pleas for peace from President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

De Klerk and Mandela agreed in Cape Town to go ahead with talks on ending white-minority rule. The two leaders hailed the agreement as a breakthrough and called for an end to violence that has left hundreds dead in recent weeks.

The clashes pit rival Zulu factions of the conservative Inkatha Movement against the United Democratic Front (UDF), which is allied to the ANC. Both groups oppose apartheid, but differ over tactics and plans for a future South Africa.

De Klerk said Thursday night the two leaders discussed the political violence "frankly and clearly ... I had the impression that there is a general agreement that violence had to come to an end and that there was a need for creating an atmosphere in which normal political processes could take place."

The ANC is calling for an end to the state of emergency and other measures before it agrees to full-scale talks.

De Klerk legalised the ANC and other outlawed black opposition groups in February, shortly before Mandela was released

from jail. The president says he wants to share political power with blacks and end all judicial forms of racial segregation.

The two leaders said a date for new talks would be announced shortly. The Citizen newspaper reported Friday that De Klerk and Mandela agreed to start formal talks on April 25. Government officials could not be reached for comment.

The government has warned that the wave of violence sweeping South Africa in recent weeks poses a major threat to political stability and negotiations on ending white-minority rule. De Klerk's meeting with Mandela and a decline in violence in recent days stirred hopes that the unrest was subsiding.

The ANC had pulled out of talks planned for April 11 to protest police firing on a black protest March 25. Nine people were killed in the confrontation.

Many South African officials and observers believe the ANC cancelled the meeting because of disagreement within its ranks about how to proceed with negotiations. It was to have been the government's first such meeting

with an ANC delegation.

In addition to Mandela, De Klerk had been scheduled to meet Thursday with six homeland leaders, but four did not attend.

Mandela denied De Klerk's charge that the ANC pressured tribal homeland leaders not to meet with the government.

Mandela and other ANC leaders have called for unity among all black political factions in order to present a solid front. The ANC says dividing black South Africans into 10 tribal areas deprives blacks of their citizenship, land ownership and work rights and leaves the majority of the country for whites.

On Thursday, Venda, the smallest of the so-called independent homelands, reportedly became the third of South Africa's four nominally independent homelands to experience a military coup in the past two and a half years. The fourth, Bophuthatswana, underwent an attempted coup in February 1988, but the president, Lucas Mangope, was rescued by South African police.

Of the six homeland leaders invited to speak with De Klerk, two showed up: KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Qwaqwa Chief Minister Kenneth Mopeli. Buthelezi heads the Inkatha Movement, whose adherents have been involved in bloody clashes with ANC supporters.

Police said Friday that rival Zulu war bands armed with guns, knives and sticks clashed around Pietermaritzburg in the south eastern province. War bands set fire to homes and fought on the hillsides around black townships and clashed with police.

At least one black man was killed when police opened fire on a large crowd near Ladysmith, according to the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. The police also said their patrols had been shot at when they tried to separate the fighters.

The fighting broke out after two days of relative quiet in the region. At least 67 people have been killed in the area since last week.

The new fighting appeared to be spreading from the Edendale area where the clashes had been concentrated, police said. Heavily armed army troops were helping police to try and restore order.

More than 12,000 refugees, mostly women and children, have fled the Edendale area.

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) said Thursday the liberation struggle against apartheid in South Africa must go ahead despite reforms introduced by President F.W. de Klerk.

Nepal King fires premier, dissolves cabinet

KATHMANDU (R) — King Birendra has fired his prime minister and dissolved the cabinet he formed just last Sunday for failing to deal with swelling pro-democracy demonstrations in the Himalayan kingdom, Radio Nepal said Friday.

Birendra named 51-year-old Lokendra Bahadur Chand as the new prime minister, replacing Marich Man Singh Shrestha, for an interim period of three months, the radio said, quoting a royal proclamation.

"The king hopes the new council of ministers will be able to hold consultations with people of different political beliefs," the radio said.

Shops were closed and streets deserted in the capital Kathmandu after banned political parties called a general strike to protest against a crackdown on political dissent and press a campaign for multi-party democracy.

The king blamed the outgoing council of ministers for having "failed to insure the safety and security of lives and property," Radio Nepal said, quoting the proclamation.

Birendra's government has taken a hard line against the democracy movement in Nepal. The monarch dismissed nine government ministers Sunday because they opposed the crackdown.

The proclamation said the king would form a commission to investigate the causes of violence in demonstrations that have killed at least 20 people since the campaign for democracy was launched by banned political parties in mid-February.

Another commission will make recommendations for political reforms, the proclamation said.

The outlawed Nepali Congress Party has said 8,000 people have been arrested during the campaign. The government says 1,000 are still in detention and 2,000 have been released.

Nepalese government workers held an unprecedented strike and villagers barricaded out police in demonstrations Thursday against the crackdown on political dissent.

About half Nepal's government offices emptied for two hours while employees stood outside holding placards backing demands for reform of the country's non-party electoral system.

Witnesses said Thursday's strikers included the country's auditor-general, Narakanta Adhikari, appointed by the king to scrutinise government spending.

Villagers at Kirtipur, a few kilometres outside Kathmandu and home of a major university complex, dug trenches and built barricades on approach roads to keep out police while some 10,000 people demonstrated against the government.

Witnesses said the town of Patan, neighbouring the capital Kathmandu, remained a no-go area for police Thursday after a week of protest there.

The government says the present system of Panchayats, or non-party elected councils, is democratic. It denounces the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a pragmatic alliance of the liberal Nepali Congress Party and seven small Communist factions, as extremist.

Four Marxist-Leninist factions, which have stayed outside the MRD, have called Friday's general strike.

Genscher urges stronger trans-Atlantic partnership

BONN (R) — Human rights, free elections and protection of minorities should be guaranteed in word and deed by a European security summit due in November, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Friday.

Genscher told U.S. newspaper editors in Washington that the planned summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSC) should set up watchdog groups to ensure agreed principles are also put into practice.

He also called for a "new trans-Atlantic partnership" among the United States, Canada and the European Community (EC) to guide the Western partnership as Europe moves towards a new identity.

"The CSC process must become a framework of stability for the dynamic, dramatic and sometimes revolutionary developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," Genscher said, according to a text released in advance of his speech.

"The summit opens up the possibility of designing perspectives for a new peaceful order in all of Europe."

The 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the CSC's first blueprint for closer East-West cooperation, listed promises of free travel and human rights that East European states mostly ignored until popular protests toppled Communist rule there last year.

Genscher's proposed watchdog

bodies would make the CSC states — the United States, Canada and all European states but Albania — accountable for the promises they make.

He called for the Council of Europe's Human Rights Court and Human Rights Commission to be expanded to Eastern Europe.

The right to free elections and protection of minorities — two pledges usually ignored by Communist states in the past — would be guaranteed by independent bodies able to review them.

The foreign minister, currently on a visit to Washington and Ottawa, also repeated an earlier suggestion for the CSC summit to set up European centres for conflict management, legal reform, environmental protection, economic cooperation, telecommunications, transport and nuclear research.

The new trans-Atlantic declaration, which he discussed with Secretary of State James Baker Wednesday, would ensure the United States "takes part in building the common European home."

Noting foreign concerns about German unification, Genscher reassured his audience that Germans wanted to live in peace with their European neighbours.

He expressed understanding for Jews who remembered Nov. 9 not as the date the Berlin Wall opened last year or Germany's liberal Weimar Republic was founded in 1918.

Troops kill 6 men near India-Pakistan border

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Police sources said Friday that security forces killed six men as they tried to slip into Pakistan to receive military training for Kashmiri separatist movement.

The killings, late Thursday, took place in the Kupwara district, near India's border with Pakistan, police said. Another 14 men were arrested and handed over to police.

Police said the men were trying to sneak into Pakistan to receive military training and buy weapons as part of the movement for independence in Jammu-Kashmir state.

Since Jan. 20, when the Indian government launched a crackdown on the movement, at least 254 people have died.

Most of the victims have been Muslim protesters defying curfew or militants killed in gun battles with security forces.

India claims Pakistan trains and arms the militants but Pakis-

tan has denied the claim. The two countries have fought two wars over the region since 1947 when both countries won independence from British colonial rule.

In Kashmir's capital of Srinagar, meanwhile, a multi-storey handcraft centre was gutted in a fire Friday and authorities said they suspected Muslim militants were responsible. There were no reports of injuries.

Kashmiri militants had earlier demanded union with Islamic Pakistan but now seek independence and the status of a neutral country.

India's Jammu-Kashmir state, which includes the scenic Kashmir Valley in the north and the plains of Jammu in the south, is India's only state with a majority of Muslims. About 64 per cent of the state's 6 million people are Muslims. Nationwide, Muslims comprise 12 per cent of India's 880 million people. Hindus account for 82 per cent.

Acquino accepts resignation of agrarian reform aide

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino accepted Friday the resignation of her agrarian reform minister, who was in charge of a controversial land reform programme.

Assistant Press Secretary Lourdes Synganco told reporters Florencio Abad's surprise resignation pained Aquino.

"I have to look ahead. What's more important now is the programme," she quoted the president as saying.

Aquino has not named a replacement.

Abad, whose formal appointment had been delayed by a congress dominated by landowners, tendered his resignation Thursday, saying he felt he no longer enjoyed Aquino's trust.

He accused the government of lacking sincerity in breaking up

huge plantations for redistribution to farmers.

Abad was the third agrarian reform secretary in nine months.

Philip Juico was relieved last year after his aides were linked to a land scam. He was replaced by former Immigration Commissioner Miriam Santiago, but congressional leaders refused to confirm her.

Abad's supporters said his resignation was a triumph of the landowner class and a serious blow to agrarian reform, which Aquino had described as her administration's cornerstone policy to ease poverty in this nation of 60 million people.

The land reform programme aims to redistribute 5.34 million hectares (about 13 million acres) of land to more than three million poor farmers.

Thatcher most unpopular leader in 50 years, opinion poll says

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is the most unpopular British leader since opinion polling started more than 50 years ago, according to a Gallup survey published Friday.

The Gallup poll, published in London's pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph newspaper, showed only 24 per cent of the voters questioned approve of the 64-year-old prime minister's performance. The Socialist Labour Party, with 52.5 per cent support, now holds a record 24.5-point lead over Mrs. Thatcher's embattled Conservative Party, the survey indicated.

The newspaper did not give a margin of error for the survey of 10,196 voters in March.

Battered by economic troubles and a backlash against an unpopular new local government tax levied on almost all voters, Mrs. Thatcher's ratings have

been declining for nearly a year. She now appears to be in the worst political trouble since she won power 11 years ago, and there is no clear sign of recovery.

In an unusually outspoken speech Friday night, Bank of England Governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton said that government "policy mistakes and forecasting error" were partly to blame for the rise in inflation, a prime cause of the party's present troubles.

Mrs. Thatcher's rating was the worst by a British leader since Gallup began taking polls in 1938, and was lower than her own previous low point in popularity. She hit 26 per cent in 1981 as her rigorous economic policies began to bite.

Voters said their main complaints were a new per capita tax, dubbed the "poll tax," inflation now at 7.5 per cent and expected by the government to hit nine per

cent by late summer, and high 15 per cent interest rates.

The low rating for Mrs. Thatcher, also dipped further than the Gallup unpopularity ratings for other British leaders in their darkest times.

For example, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain recorded a 32 per cent popularity rating in May 1940 when his policy of appeasing Adolf Hitler failed and Britain was in danger of a Nazi invasion in World War II. Shortly afterward, he was replaced by Winston Churchill.

Labour's Harold Wilson, beset by strikes, a falling pound and the need to impose higher taxes, sunk to a 27 per cent approval rating in 1968. He lost an election two years later.

In the latest poll, Gallup showed the Conservatives with 28 per cent support, down three points from a month ago.

Colombian police deactivate truck bomb

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Police defused a truck bomb containing more than half-ton of dynamite that had been planted by drug traffickers hoping to destroy several blocks of a wealthy Bogota neighbourhood.

Military armour and patrols poured out of army bases and into the streets minutes after the Thursday morning attempt.

Interior Minister Horacio Serpa, who police said escaped being a victim by minutes, called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council.

Federal Sen. Federico Estrada, who was kidnapped by drug traffickers last Tuesday in Medellin, was released unharmed Thursday in that northwestern Colombia city, home of Medellin's cocaine cartel.

In a communique, traffickers had threatened to murder him if police did not release four of their associates.

Police have denied detaining the four, and the reason for Estrada's being freed was not clear.

Gunmen working for the Medellin cartel killed another policeman Thursday in Medellin, bringing to 15 the number of officers killed there since Monday.

Police chief Col. Carlos Alberto Otorola of Medellin says the cartel is paying \$4,300 for each officer killed.

Most of a surge of violence believed drug-related has been concentrated in Medellin.

On Wednesday, gunmen entered a tavern and began shooting indiscriminately. Two doctors, a university professor, an engineer and two waiters were killed and two people wounded.

Police found five shot bodies at a downtown soccer field and three bodies on the city outskirts of the city. Two bodies were found in a northern neighbourhood known as a centre for gangs of hired murderers. An off-duty soldier was shot dead.

Mexican opposition gives up town halls after show of force

JUNGAPEO, Mexico (R) — Leftist militants, faced by thousands of Mexican troops backed by armoured cars and light tanks, have abandoned the town halls they had occupied for months, handing a political victory to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

"Seventeen town halls have been peacefully evacuated," State Attorney General Ricardo Olor Romero said, adding that no injuries had been reported during the operation in the Pacific coast state of Michoacan.

On Thursday federal officials ordered troops into the town squares of municipalities throughout Michoacan where Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) used fraud to rob them of local offices in December elections.

Before the troops arrived, state officials said 20 town halls were occupied.

The troops were sent in two days after the governor of Michoacan said local officials had

exhausted other avenues for dislodging the demonstrators.

Analysts said the reinforcement of local police with soldiers appeared to be aimed at demonstrating to investigators at home and abroad that political unrest had not beset Salinas.

Officials said the protesters, mostly members of the centre-left Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD), were disrupting the already impoverished economy of Michoacan.

"Investment and employment have dropped in these areas. Important development projects have been cancelled, causing massive immigration to other areas and to the United States, a background document released by the government said.

Michoacan is stronghold of PRD leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, whose call to refrain from violence as the troops moved in apparently reached some supporters inside the occupied buildings. "We have been told not to

provoke violence and we're never going to disregard Cardenas," Ranieri Penabaz said after leaving the town hall in Ciudad Hidalgo, a city of 72,000 people.

Residents of other towns said they were eager to put behind them the political disputes that have claimed dozens of lives in the past year and a half.

"It is just hope this means peace and tranquility in the town," said Cecilia Cedejas, shortly after police led away a dozen men who surrendered at the town hall in this town some 130 kilometres west of Mexico City.

A day before officials mobilised the troops, police in Mexico City detained 166 suspected leftist extremists in connection with two murders in the capital earlier in the week.

Opposition politicians described the detentions as a witch-hunt against the opposition. The city attorney general's office said all but 25 of those detained had been released by late Thursday.

Pyongyang angry over Seoul overtures to Moscow

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Friday angrily criticised South Korea for its efforts to open formal ties with the Soviet Union and appeared to caution Moscow against extending recognition to its bitter rival.

Breaking Pyongyang's silence on the recent Moscow visit by Kim Young-Sam, one of the leaders of Seoul's ruling coalition, the official daily Rodong Sinmun blasted what it called "an anti-national, splittist trip to incite confrontation and tension between North and South" and perpetuate the 45-year division of the peninsula.

Kim returned home last week, saying President Mikhail Gorbachev told him there were now no obstacles to full diplomatic relations between Moscow and Seoul. The Soviet Union, which backed the Communist North in the 1950-53 Korean war remained a close ally, has always refused to

recognise the South Korean state. The editorial, carried by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and monitored here, said: "The South Korean puppets kicked up quite a fuss as if (Kim) were back from hunting... a big bear and heatedly advertised the 'results' of his trip."

"According to the 'joint statement' between the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the South Korean Democratic Liberal Party" that came at the end of Kim's Moscow trip, the two sides at their talks reached "a common understanding that the normalisation of relations" between the Soviet Union and South Korea "is indispensable."

"It is a very strange formality that something like a 'joint statement' was published between an

'institute' and a 'political party.' And it remains to be seen whether it represented an official view of the Soviet government," the official daily said.

In a clear sign of official concern in Pyongyang at the turn of events, the editorial added:

"It is unthinkable on a normal orbit that the Soviet Union will involve itself in the 'two Koreas' policy by 'recognising' South Korea in contravention of basic principle."

In recent years the booming capitalist South has pursued an aggressive double-pronged "nordpolitik," aimed at easing tensions with the North while at the same time opening ties with Pyongyang's traditional East Bloc allies.

Virtually all the world's Communist states attended the 1988 Seoul Olympics, despite Pyongyang's call for a boycott, and the

past year has seen Seoul establish first trade and then full diplomatic relations with a number of countries in Eastern Europe.

While the North reacted in fury when Hungary opened an embassy in the South last year, downgrading its own mission in Budapest, it has shown greater reserve as further dominoes have fallen.

The Soviet Union, which badly needs the sort of technology and capital that South Korea has to offer, has been steadily moving in the direction of closer ties.

Bilateral trade doubled to \$599 million in 1989 from \$290 million in 1988. Seoul and Moscow exchanged consular offices earlier this year, and under a new air services agreement, the two countries' flag carriers Aeroflot and Korean Air Lines last week began regular flights between their capitals.

COLUMN

Jackson causes a stir at White House

WASHINGTON (R) — Generating more of a commotion than most foreign heads of state, pop music king Michael Jackson paid a courtesy call on President George Bush — luring a news media horde, eager White House staffers and the presidential dog, Millie. Originally, the White House was scheduled to bring in a small group of reporters and photographers to the Oval Office for the traditional photo opportunity with a visit dignitary. Intense interest, however, forced a change in plans. The picture-taking session was switched to the Rose Garden to accommodate more than 100 reporters, photographers and television crews determined to capture key elements of the visit. As the news media waited for the grand entrance, White House staff members poured in for a glimpse of the guest. Inside the Oval Office, an unusual number of flashes could be seen going off as staff photographers captured the moment on film. First lady Barbara Bush and her daughter-in-law Margaret also slipped in for a chat, along with Millie, the English springer spaniel who could be seen excitedly romping around the Oval Office floor.

A kiss is still a kiss in Arizona

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — A kiss is fine, but anything more amorous is a serious crime if you are under 15 and live in Arizona, the state's highest court has ruled. Petting, according to the ruling, could land teenagers under the age of 15 in juvenile court, subject to criminal penalties set by a judge. The five-judge Arizona Supreme Court, by a narrow three-to-two margin, upheld controversial state legislation outlawing the steamy activities of young teens. The law was originally devised to protect teenagers from sex molesters and Arizona lawmakers are currently studying how to rewrite it without turning the normal activities of amorous youngsters into crimes. In a sharply worded dissent on the court's ruling Vice Chief Justice Stanley Feldman said the decision bestowed authority on a "massive force of sex police" to monitor young teenage lovers. "Every young worker, counsellor, teacher, doctor, psychologist, nurse or parent in Arizona who has been told of consensual petting by teenagers must report the activity to police," he said. Under current Arizona law any adult who becomes aware of teens petting must report it to the police.

Plastic surgeons offer Basinger's lips, Mona Lisa's smile

CHICAGO (R) — Plastic surgeons have new techniques that offer the luscious lips adorning screen star Kim Basinger or the pleased countenance that graces of the Mona Lisa. To serve the cosmetically conscious, site-specific plastic surgeries can improve one's pout or restore one's smile without fatty injections or full-scale facelifts. Among the innovations presented at the week-long convention of plastic surgeons here were textured silicon implants that produce softer enlarged breasts and tiny lasers that dissolve the spidery blood vessels that show up in sun-damaged skin. The new technique to thicken thin lips, developed by Reza Samian at the Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida, involves making several V-shaped incisions in the lips inside the mouth and advancing some of the lining and muscle to create fullness. The cost of augmenting both lips \$2,000 and \$3,000, and could be considered preferable to collagen or fat injections, which often wear off in six months to a year, Samian said.

Swiss seize stolen bust at art fair

ZURICH (R) — Swiss authorities have seized a 2,000-year-old marble bust on display at an art fair in Basel after being tipped off it had been stolen from an Italian museum two years ago. Officials from the Basle Prosecutor's Office confiscated the bust, said a spokeswoman for its current owner, art dealer Herbert Cahn. Cahn had asked authorities to take it and wanted it returned to its proper owner, she said. The Basle Zeitung newspaper quoted Cahn as saying he bought the bust at a Sotheby's auction in New York in November, unaware it had been stolen from the Museo Civico in Terracina near Rome.

NATO probes last possible spy case

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO has started probing what may be one of its last cold war spy cases and officials said Friday it may have done enormous damage to the Western alliance.

A 45-year-old cyber officer from Bonn's permanent mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is being held in West Germany on suspicion of passing alliance secrets to East Germany over a period of more than 20 years.

"We've started an investigation here to find out exactly what damage has been done," said one official, who asked not to be identified. "It could be very serious."

As a cyber officer, the man — identified only as H.W. by the West German federal prosecutor — would have seen much important communications traffic to and from the West German mission, where he had worked since 1987.

"Given the central importance of West Germany within the alliance, this means that an enormous amount of damage could have been done to our interests," another official said.

West Germany is NATO's

frontline state and one of the most heavily militarised areas in the world.

The man is alleged to have passed on documents on arms control negotiations, NATO's relations with the Communist Warsaw Pact and East-West German political developments.

The prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe accused the man of "secret service agent activity of a particularly serious nature for an East German intelligence service."

The case is likely to be one of the last to emerge from the dying embers of the cold war, especially now that East Germany is a democracy rather than a hardline Communist state and the Warsaw Pact poses no threat to the West, officials said.

The West German prosecutor's statement said that during more than 20 years of espionage, including three years in the Brussels job, the man received about 250,000 marks (\$147,000). He also worked in Vienna.

It alleged that after espionage training, the East Germans gave him apparatus for decoding radio signals and material for secret writing. He was given a case with a

hidden compartment, in which he carried copies and photographs of documents he gathered.

West German counter-intelligence bosses have said East Germans flooding across the border since the collapse of the Communist regime late last year have helped it score a number of But there have been no indications so far as to what led to the man being detained.

The Dutch-language Belgian daily De Morgen said Belgian police were tipped off by West German intelligence and searched the man's house in a Brussels suburb Tuesday after his diplomatic immunity was lifted by Bonn.

They at first found nothing, but then turned up ultra-shortwave transmitting sets, small suitcases with secret code books, some of which had false bottoms, and some top secret NATO documents, De Morgen said.

The newspaper said he sent some urgent messages by short-wave radio to his East German controllers but that he also took some documents to West Germany, Switzerland and Austria in suitcases with false bottoms.